



Introduction to Clay Technology for Brick Makers

Understanding Raw Materials:

- What are the common types of brick making raw materials “clay deposits”.
- What are clay minerals and what other minerals are found in “clay deposits”.
- How are clay minerals and clay deposits formed.
- Test methods used to evaluate the properties/quality of clay deposits.
- Types of tests, information they give you and how you interpret the results.



Clay Preparation:

- Crushing, Grinding, Sourcing – Basic Principles, importance to specific clay types
- Intro to Rheology and Plasticity – What happens when you add water to clays.
- How rheology/plasticity are used/managed in the forming processes.



Clay Drying:

- The science of clay body drying – What happens when.
- Drying sensitivity/shrinkage.
- Controlling the mechanical drying process – Optimised drying.
- Drying faults.



Clay Firing:

- The science of the firing process – What happens when
- Time-Temperature-Transformations (turning clay into ceramic) - Basic principles.
- Firing faults.