

**VIRGINIA MULLITE™** |  $3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$

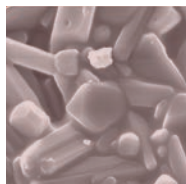
**MULLITE FOUNDRY COATINGS AND SPRAYS SPECIFICATION**



**KYANITE MINING CORPORATION**

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## What is Mullite?

Mullite is an important ceramic material and a key ingredient in many high-temperature products. Mullite has a high melting temperature, high hot strength, and excellent thermal shock and creep resistance. Mullite has no polymorphic inversions, making it volume stable at high temperatures and has a low coefficient of thermal expansion.

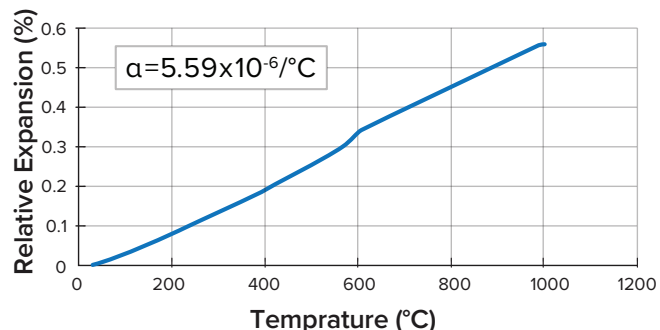
## Making Mullite by Calcining Kyanite

Mullite is rarely found in nature and thus must be formed for commercial use. Virginia Mullite™ is unique as it is created by calcining Virginia Kyanite™, not by calcining clay minerals. Virginia Kyanite™ is converted to Virginia Mullite™ via a phase transition in a rotary kiln in excess of 1450°C. The resulting product contains 55-60% alumina, about 80% mullite, 11% finely dispersed amorphous silica, 7% quartz, and less than 1% cristobalite. The amorphous silica is highly reactive and combines easily with sources of alumina to form secondary mullite. Virginia Mullite™ has a different particle shape to that of mullite formed by calcining clay minerals. Virginia Mullite™ is very low in magnetic iron and other impurities, which brings added benefits.

## Foundry Coating and Spray Materials

Virginia Mullite™ is an excellent, cost-effective material for foundry coatings or sprays. Virginia Mullite™ is lower in impurities than other mullite products; this reduces glass formation during sintering and provides cleaner mold release. Virginia Mullite™ works well in direct contact with molten metal at temperatures up to about 1600°C. It can be an excellent partial or full substitute for zircon flour in applications where the temperature is equal to or less than 1600°C; it is lower in density with a low thermal expansion. The unique, needle-like particle shape also helps mitigate cracks in the coatings.

## Thermal Expansion of Virginia Mullite



## Typical Chemical Analysis (%)

Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	57.0 *(55.0 min)
SiO <sub>2</sub>	40.2
TiO <sub>2</sub>	1.1
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.5 (0.75 max)
CaO	<0.04
MgO	<0.03
Na <sub>2</sub> O	<0.04
K <sub>2</sub> O	<0.07
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	<0.15

## Mineralogy (%)

## Typical

Mullite	79–85
Amorphous	8–12
Quartz	4–8
Cristobalite	<1

## Specific Gravity

3.00 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

## Typical Screen Specification of Virginia Mullite Grains

	40m (420 µm)	50m (300 µm)	100m (150 µm)	140m (106 µm)	200m (75 µm)	325 m (45 µm)	Pan
<b>35 Mesh</b>	15-30	15-30	30-45				10-30
<b>48 Mesh</b>		4-10	10-25	10-20	10-20		33-55
<b>100 Mesh</b>			5-10	8-20	12-25		50-73
<b>200 Mesh</b>					10 max		90 min
<b>325 Mesh</b>						10 max	90 min

Screen analysis is reported on US Standard sieves. Pan designates material passing the last reported screen. All analysis are expressed in weight percent.