Illinois' mining...

Industrial (Silica) Sand

After the overlying soil is removed, the silica sand is initially fragmented by blasting or directly removed with a loader. Often the fragmented sand is hydraulically moved to the processing plant where it is washed, dried and sized. The sized product is then blended for the given customer’s product specifications.

Quarried in LaSalle and Ogle Counties, silica sand production in Illinois leads the nation. The sand is quarried by surface mining operations excavating deposits to depths of 120 feet.

Foundry Work
The round grain and high melting point makes this sand perfect for foundry work. The product is mixed with resin to make molds that are used to cast various metal parts for use in the automotive and heavy equipment as well as other industries.

Oil and Gas Extraction
Called “frac” sand, the silica sand is injected at extremely high pressure into oil and gas yielding rock formations. The sand acts as a proppant, holding open the created fractures thereby allowing the hydrocarbons to freely flow to the extraction well.

Glass Products from Silica Sand

Glass Manufacturing
Referred to as melting sand, the silica sand is used here to make flat glass, containers, fiberglass, specialty glass, lenses, etc. The product is also converted to “water glass,” a base for soap products.

Specialty Sands
The silica sand is used as a filler and extender for paints and drywall compounds, ASTM testing sands, dental cleaning, golf courses, field turf and for manufactured countertops.

Sand Blasting
Silica sand is used as the abrasive agent in the sand blasting industry for the cleaning of metals prior to painting.

Foundry Molds

Building Products
The silica sand is used for white cement, pool filtration and cement exterior siding.

Other Common Products From Silica Sand

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