

ROCKS AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS IN PERU

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Industrial minerals and ornamental rocks can be defined as substances generated in diverse geological environments due to exposures to exogene or endogeneprocesses. The first group includes phosphates, nitrates, granates, carbonates, sillimanites, wollastonites, asbestos, talk, mica, among others. The second group includes marble, sienite, serpentine, basalt, cuarcite, among others. Most of these materials are used without any processing, meaning in it's natural form. The use of these materials in Peru dates to the pre-inca era since the residues of some material have been found in different cultures, for example in the work created by the Chavin and Tiahuanaco pre-colombian cultures as well as in the Inca culture as some of the constructions in Macchu Picchu - Cusco and in Cajamarca show. The same use of these materials persisted during the Colony and Independence times up to date. For example, the buildings in downtown Lima as well as the buildings in other peruvian main cities such as Trujillo, Arequipa, Piura, Huancayo, Ayacucho, among others. As you may see, the use of industrial minerals and ornamental rocks in Perú have been linked to different historical periods, therefore this text has the purpose of revealing their location as well as showing their characteristics.