



Ceramic & Glass Trivia

Fun Trivia on Ceramics and Glass

(Taken from the *Magic of Ceramics* 2nd edition by David Richerson)

- Some ceramics are so strong that a one-inch diameter ceramic cable could lift 50 automobiles
- Ceramic Auto Emission Control Systems have saved us from 1.5 billion tons of pollution since 1975
- Some ceramics conduct electricity better than metals
- Diamonds, rubies and cubic zirconia are ceramics
- Glass microspheres smaller than a hair provide liver cancer treatments
- Without ceramics we wouldn't have TV's, computers, cell phones, mp3 players, space shuttles, CDs, DVDs or even cars.
([see more cool ceramic inventions](#))
- There are even ceramics in the newest snowboards, Tennis rackets, Olympic Skis, and golf putters, just to name a few.
- Enough ceramic tiles are manufactured each year to pave a road the width of three football fields completely around the world!
- Fiberglass housing insulation was introduced in 1939 and has resulted in estimated energy savings of more than 30,000,000,000,000,000 (30 quadrillion) Btu.
- About 1 ton of concrete is produced every year for every person in the world.
- Glass is a ceramic as it is also inorganic, nonmetallic
- Two optical Fibers, each thinner than a hair, can transmit 625,000 telephone calls at once.
- Optical fibers are so strong that a 1-inch diameter cable could lift 216 elephants each weighing 6 tons (1,296 tons!)
- There are now 3-D ceramic printers which can copy art or an object from a photo and print that object in 3-D in ceramic form
- More than 3 million spark plugs are produced in the world every day
- Every automobile in the world has at least 15 ceramic magnets
- Diamond is a ceramic and is about 200 times harder than a hardened metal alloy.
- One-third of an inch thick ceramic armor can stop an armor piercing projectile that can penetrate two inches of steel
- Ceramic igniters replace pilot lights and don't waste natural gas
- Electricity generated from wind (many ceramic wind turbines) grew in the USA by 10,000 MW in 2009 to a new total capacity enough to supply the electrical needs of about 30 million houses