



Fun Facts about Ceramics

Some ceramics are so strong that a 1-inch diameter cable could lift 50 cars.

By the late 1990s, enough fiber-optic cable was installed to and from the moon 160 times!

More than 3 million spark plugs are manufactured each day.

Ceramic automotive emission control systems have saved us from billions of tons of pollution since 1975.

Each year more than 1 billion tons of concrete are poured.

Some ceramics conduct electricity better than metals.

Diamonds, rubies, and cubic zirconia are ceramics.

Glass microspheres smaller than a hair provide a promising new liver cancer treatment.

Enough ceramic tiles are produced each year to pave a path 300-ft. wide around the world.

Ceramic fiberglass house insulation has conserved more than 30,000,000,000,000,000 BTU of heat since 1938.

More than 1.3 billion pounds in ceramic magnets were produced in 1997.

Ceramic heat exchangers can reduce fuel consumption of a high-temperature industrial process by 50%.

As a ceramic, diamond 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 2 inches of steel.

As little as 2% chopped carbon fiber added to concrete increases its strength by four times.

More than 21 million tons of glass are produced each year in just the United States. That's enough glass to completely fill a lake that is 10-ft. deep and 2 miles across.

Source: Richerson, David W. *The Magic of Ceramics*. Second ed. The American Ceramic Society, 2012.