



Table 1: Characteristics of Various Abrasive Types

Abrasive Type	Description	Hardness	Friability	Bulk Density	Shape	Common Uses
Aluminum Oxide	Commonly called “AlOx.” Manufactured abrasive. Otherwise known as fused alumina. Brown fused aluminum oxide is the most common type.	Very High 9.0 Mohs	Low	105–125 lbs per cubic ft	Angular	Nonferrous surfaces including stainless steel, precision blasting, turbine blasting and more. Normally recycled in blast cabinets.
Coal Slag	By-product waste from a coal-fired power plant. The molten ash comes from the bottom of a wet bottom boiler and is quenched and vitrified with water, and then crushed/processed for abrasive blasting applications.	Medium 6.0–7.0 Mohs	High	75–90 lbs per cubic ft	Angular	Bridges, water tanks, ships and other industrial structures. Not typically recycled.
Copper Slag	Also known as iron silicate. By-product made of granulated slag from the copper smelting process. During smelting, impurities in the copper become slag, which floats to	Medium 6.0–7.0 Mohs	High	90–115 lbs per cubic ft	Angular	Bridges, water tanks, ships and other industrial structures. Not typically recycled.