



Diatomaceous Earth

Diatomaceous Earth is a naturally occurring soft, siliceous sedimentary rock which is easily crumbled into fine white or off white powder. The particle size is less than 3 um to no more than 1 mm. Diatomaceous Earth originated millions of years ago as large sea algae called diatoms. The algae sank to the bottom of the water body and fossilized under specific conditions. The specific conditions left large caches of the products throughout the world. The product is made up of 80-90% silica, 2.4% alumina, and 0.2-2.0% iron oxide.

There are two types of diatomaceous earth, food grade which has 0.2-6% crystalline silica and pool grade which has over 60% crystalline silica in its makeup. There have been many uses developed for Diatomaceous Earth. It is used as a filter, used to remove unwanted material from drinking water. It is effective as an insecticide for fleas, bedbugs, roaches, ants etc. It is effective against insects with waxy exoskeletons. The Diatomaceous earth can damage the skeleton, so that the insect cannot retain moisture and die from dehydration. DE is also used to retain moisture in the soil.

Humans consume diatomaceous earth as a source of silica. It has been used to lower cholesterol, improve hair growth, improve nail growth and durability. One must handle DE with care as it can be inhaled very easily and can create lung damage, induce lung cancer and other lung related issues.