



Blast Media Characteristics Comparison

Material	Mesh Size	Shape	Density lbs/ft ³	Mohs	Friability	Initial Cost	# of Cycles	Per Use Cost	Source	Typical Apps
Sil. Sand*	6-270	✘	100	5.0-6.0	High	Low	1	Med.	Nat.	Outdoor blast cleaning
Min. Slag	8-80	✘	85-112	7.0-7.5	High	Med.	1-2	Med.	B-P	Outdoor blast cleaning
Garnet	8-300	✘	130-145	7.0	Med.	Med.	2-2.5	Med.	Nat.	Clean, Finish, Deburr, Etch
Steel Grit	10-325	✘	230	8.0	Low	High	200+	Med.	MFD.	Removing heavy scale
Steel Shot	8-200	●	280	8.0	—	High	200+	Low	MFD.	Cleaning, Peening
Al. Oxide	12-325	✘	125	9.0	Med.	High	6-8	Med.	MFD.	Clean, Finish, Deburr, Etch
Silicon Carbide	12-325	✘	110	9.5	Med.	High	5-6	Med.	MFD.	Surface prep—hard substrates
Glass Bead	10-400	●	85-90	5.5-6.0	Med.	Med.	8-10	Low	MFD.	Cleaning, Finishing
Plastic	12-80	✘	45-60	3.0-4.0	Low/Med	High	8-10	Med.	MFD.	Paint strip, Deflash, Clean
Bicarbonate	60-170	✘	60	2.5	High	High	1	High	MFD.	Cleaning, Paint removal
Wheat Starch	12-80	✘	45	2.0	Med.	Med.	12-15	High	MFD.	Paint, Adhesive removal, Composites
XL Corn Hybrid Polymer	16-60	✘	45	3.0	Low	High	14-17	Med.	MFD.	Composite paint removal, Adhesive deflash
Corn Cob	8-40	✘	35-45	2.0-4.5	Med.	Low	4.5	Low	B-P	Removing paint from delicate surfaces

✘ = Angular; ● = Spherical / Nat. = Natural; B-P = By-Product; MFD. = Manufactured

*Consult OSHA regulations before using silica sand as a blast abrasive.