



"Professional Grade Sandpaper"  
[www.preferredabrasives.com](http://www.preferredabrasives.com)

# Abrasive Materials Guide

## Most Common Grains

Ceramic	Zirc	Aluminum Oxide
Primary Use - Metal	Primary Use - Metal	Primary Use - Various
Available Grits 24-220	Available Grits 24-180	Available Grits 24-2000
Color - Red or Orange	Color - Green or Blue	Color - Usually brown or reddish
Self Sharpening	Self Sharpening	Not Self Sharpening
Longest life and fastest cut rate of all coated abrasives	Best choice for abusive applications	Durable with tough cutting edges, but dulls during use
Newest grain innovation	The first innovation in self-sharpening grain technology	Works reasonably well in most materials.
Grains feature very small fracture planes allowing each granule to constantly resharpen and provide extremely consistent stock removal through its usable life	Works best under high pressure (which is required for the grain to fracture exposing new sharp edges)	Good starting point for most metal and wood applications.
	Grain can resharpen itself a limited number of times.	Most common and least expensive grain

## Less Common Grains

Silicon Carbide	Crocus	Emery	Garnet
Primary Use - Titanium Alloys & Cast Iron	Primary Use - Soft Materials (Cleaning and Extremely Fine Polishing)	Primary Use - Metals (Cleaning and Polishing)	Primary Use - Soft Woods (Finishing Applications)
Available Grits 16-800	Crocus Cloth - Approx 1500-2000 Grit	Available Grits - Course, Medium, Fine	Available Grits 40-220
Color - Black	Color - Reddish Brown	Color - Dark Gray	Color - Reddish Brown
Self Sharpening	Not Self Sharpening	Not Self Sharpening	Not Self Sharpening
Sharp, hard synthetic abrasive	Soft material made from iron oxide	Better used as a polishing grain than a cutting grain	Not as durable as synthetic abrasives and thus not widely used.
Also ideal for Glass, Plastic, Rubber, Paint and Wood Products	The finest natural grain produced		Relatively sharp with medium hardness
Fast stock removal due to friable grains continually fracturing and exposing new cutting edges			