

## THERMAL EXPANSION OF ILLITIC CLAY RADOBICA

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**Abstract:** Brick clay from a locality Radobica, Central Slovakia (39 % of quartz, 46 % of illite, 12.5 % of Na-feldspar, and 2.5 % of unidentified phase) was investigated for its possible reuse. The dilatometric measurements of clay were performed during heating as well as at room temperature on samples preheated at temperatures from 100 °C to 1100 °C. At the lowest temperatures, only a small expansion was observed. Dehydroxylation of illite (between 450 °C and 700 °C) was accompanied by the expansion. The sample has a relatively high amount of quartz that passes through the  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  transition which exhibited itself as a steep expansion. Sintering and vitrification lead to the steep contraction. The course of the dilatometric curve of the fired sample is linear up to 500 °C with CLTE of  $6.4 \times 10^{-6}$  1/K. After it, a regular thermal expansion continues. Partially fired samples showed that firing up to 500 °C almost did not influence the dimensions of the sample.

**Keywords:** illitic clay, thermal expansion, sintering, ceramics

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