

Green Earths

Green Earths are with divalent iron green colored, highly lightfast Iron-(II)-Silicates.

Iron compounds color a large part of our visible world:

- Iron-(II)-Compounds are green
- Iron-(II)/(III)-Compounds are black
- Iron-(III)-Compounds are yellow or red



Depending on the purity of the iron silicate, the color and suitability for different binders change. The purer the earth, the less contamination of yellow or red parts, the brighter and more bluish the color tone. The blue-green Cypriot Earth is a particularly beautiful variety.

The natural occurrences of Green Earths are rather small to very small. Mining is usually very difficult and many deposits are exhausted today. Therefore, Green Earths are only extracted for artistic purposes and for restoration.

Green Earths are often used in landscape painting. The Veronese Green Earth, the Bohemian Green Earth and the Bavarian Green Earth also serve as background for incarnate. The newly discovered Earth Green Opalite from Colorado is particularly suitable for acrylic painting.

Green Earths are not stable at temperatures above approx. 90 °C.



Crystalline green iron silicates contain very little swellable components and are suitable for all binders (including water glass, acrylic, tempera and oil):

- #11110, #11111 **Russian Green Earth**, intense green
- #11150, #11151 **Epidote**, yellow-green like grass in winter
- #11181, #11182, #11183 **Andeer Green**, a green gneiss, coarser
- #11200 **Green Jasper**
- #11210 **Green Quarz**
- #11230 **Opal Green**, also available in larger quantities
- #11250 **Celadonite**, actually a kind of green sandstone from the Maritime Alps
- #11552 **Brimisvellir Green**, from Icelandic volcanic rock



Earths created by sedimentation processes or directly from clay-containing layers contain more swellable components and are therefore not suitable for acrylic and silicate. These include the actual Green Earths:

- #11000, #11010 **Verona Green Earth**, from the mountains near Verona
- #11100 **Bavarian Green Earth**, from the Alpine foothills south of Munich
- #11120 **Volkonskoite**, particularly green due to a natural proportion of chrome oxide green
- #11152 **Florentine Green**, made of green basalt
- #17400, #17410 **Green Earth**, from Cyprus, especially for Greek and Russian icon painting
- #40800 **Green Earth light**, from Germany, swellable and easy to dye with dyes
- #40810 **Bohemian Green Earth**, remaining stock
- #40821 **Green Earth** from Verona

Because of the low availability of Green Earths, there have been around for a long time beautiful or adulterated Green Earths. Mixtures with chromium oxide hydrate green, phthalo green, cobalt blue or even green dyes were and are common:

- #40830 **Green Earth from France**, imitation
- #41700 **Verona Green Earth**, imitation
- #41750 **Vagone Green Earth**
- #41770 **Nicosia Green** (similar to bluish Cyprus Green Earth)
- #41800 **Bohemian Green Earth**, imitation
- #41820 **Verona Green Earth**, imitation

