Global Bentonite Market: Information by Product (Sodium Bentonite, Calcium Bentonite, Sulphur Bentonite, Others), Application (Foundry Sands, Cat Litter, Iron Ore Pelletizing, Refining, Drilling Muds, Absorbent/Adsorbent, Binder, Sealant, Civil Engineering, Others), End-Use Industry (Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics, Construction, Oil & Gas, Food & Beverage, Paper and Pulp, Agriculture, Ceramics, Wastewater Treatment) and Region (Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East & Africa) - Forecast till 2024

Market Overview

Bentonite is a colloidal clay mineral, which is formed from weathering volcanic ash often in the presence of water. It is a naturally occurring clay that prominently consists of montmorillonite. It has high water absorption capacity, which results in it to expand and swell. The swelling action of absorption of bentonite depends on its ion exchange capacity. It is classified into various types, depending upon the respective dominating elements such as sodium, potassium, aluminum, and calcium. Bentonite finds applications in building waterproof screens and foundations, tunneling, slurry walls, and stabilization of casings. It exhibits unique plasticizing properties, which make it ideal for the production of grouts and injections for patching cracks and filling voids.

According to MRFR analysis, the Global Bentonite Market is expected to reach USD 1.62 billion with a healthy CAGR of 4.1% by the end of 2024. The growing demand for bentonite in end-use industries such as construction, oil and gas, ceramics, and agricultural is expected to be the major growth driver of the global market. In addition, increasing metal casting and foundry applications coupled with the growing automotive industry is anticipated to boost the global market growth. In the agricultural industry, it is used as an ion exchanger for soil enhancement and conditioning. Moreover, in food and beverages, it plays a vital role in the formation of wine, fats, and edible oil to remove the impurities in oil and enhance clarification and protein stabilization. The growing awareness regarding wastewater treatment is increasing the product’s consumption owing to its high adsorption capabilities and easy availability which further drives the market growth during the forecast period. Furthermore, increasing utilization of bentonite in the personal care and cosmetics; cat litter; and paper and pulp industries is expected to create several growth opportunities to the market players operating in the global bentonite market.

However, the use of bentonite in drilling fluids for oil and gas extraction may contaminate groundwater sources which is expected to hamper the global market growth during the review period. In addition, bentonite clay when consumed poses a significant risk of lead consumption which may cause kidney and brain damage; and its usage in pet litter may represent the risk of pets suffering carcinogenic effects in case of ingestion, which further restrains the market growth in the following years.

Key players

The key players operating in the global bentonite market are Black Hills Bentonite, LLC (US), Halliburton (US), Kemira (Finland), CB Minerals (US), Minerals Technologies Inc (US), Clariant (Switzerland), Alfa Aesar (US), KUNIMINE INDUSTRIES CO., LTD (Japan), Ashapura Group (India), Wyo-Ben, Inc. (US), Pacific Bentonite Ltd. (Canada), Delmon Group of Companies (UAE), CIMBAR
PERFORMANCE MINERALS (US), LKAB Minerals (Sweden), and Kutch Minerals (India).

Global Bentonite Market Share, by Application, 2018 (%)

Source: MRFR Analysis

Regional Analysis

The Global Bentonite Market has been segmented into five key regions, namely Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East & Africa.

The North American market dominated the global bentonite market in 2018 on account of large-scale exploration and drilling activities in the country. There is a growing demand for the product in pharmaceuticals, ceramics, and wastewater treatment industries. The regional market is projected to register a moderate CAGR in the coming years owing to the stringent government regulations regarding drilling activities. The US is the prominent country in the region on account of large presence of bentonite manufacturers and growing consumption in various applications. The Asia-Pacific market is projected to register the highest CAGR during the forecast period owing to growing construction activities, automobile manufacturing, and growing iron pelletizing industry. India is the prominent market in the region followed by China, Japan, and South Korea on account of rapid urbanization and population growth, and increasing use in the water treatment, food and beverage, and agricultural industries.

Segmentation Analysis

The global bentonite market has been segmented on the basis of product, application, end-use industry, and region.

Based on product, the global bentonite market has been categorized into sodium bentonite, calcium bentonite, sulfur bentonite, and others.

By application, the global bentonite market has been classified into foundry sands, cat litter, iron ore pelletizing, refining, drilling muds, absorbent/adsorbent, binder, sealant, civil engineering, and others.

On the basis of end-use industry, the global bentonite market has been classified into pharmaceuticals, construction, oil and gas, food and beverages, cosmetics, paper and pulp, agriculture, wastewater treatment, and ceramics.

Target Audience

- Traders and distributors of bentonite
- Bentonite manufacturers
- Potential investors
- Production process industries
- Raw material suppliers
- Nationalized laboratories
- Government bodies

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