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The effect of alkaline earth carbonates on the microstructure and mechanical properties of impermeable and lightweight ceramics

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Abstract

Lightweight impermeable ceramic bodies were designed by combining pore templating and controlled viscous sintering through in-situ crystallization. Various amounts of limestone were added to a glass-fluxed low-temperature stoneware tile formulation. Closed porosity was created by decomposition of carbonates prior to sintering, thus leaving voids that were not completely filled by the viscous melt. The resulting oxides chemically modified the liquid phase and promoted the crystallization of β -wollastonite, diopside and anorthite. Hence, viscous sintering was affected. The addition of limestone brought on several advantages: the temperature of maximum sintering rate was decreased (<900 °C); the dimensional stability range was extended; the matrix was reinforced by newly-formed crystals that compensated for the global structure weakening evoked by increased

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