

are most widely distributed throughout the eastern and southern portions of the state and oftentimes underlie broad areas of country. Important clays also occur in the central and western portions of the state. The clays of Maryland are suitable for brick-making, terracotta work, fire-brick and pottery. Brick-making began in Maryland in the colonial days, scattered references to the industry being found in the earliest records. The clays most extensively used at the present time are from the Columbia and Patapsco formations, and the centre of the industry is at Baltimore. Residual clays in central and western Maryland are also employed, while the fire clays of Allegany county rank among the best in the United States.

The clays of the Columbia formation widely cover the surface at the lower levels in the region about Baltimore, and in the country to the south and east they generally consist of a yellowish or brownish clay or loam which grades downwards into coarse sands and gravels. They are highly regarded by the clay workers for certain classes of products. Much of the Columbia clay has been removed in the immediate vicinity of Baltimore, but is still capable of further development in the southern and southwestern portions of the city about Middle Branch, and in other sections of country in the adjacent counties.

The clays of the Patapsco formation are developed along a belt which extends from the northeast to the southwest across the state, passing through Baltimore. In this locality, as well as in the region adjacent to the city of Washington they have been extensively worked and afford many high-grade varieties. The highly carbonaceous iron-ore clays of the Arundel formation have also been used considerably to the south and southwest of the city. The clays of both of these formations have been employed for various purposes, but are capable of much larger use than that to which they have already been put.

The manufacture of fire-brick has been one of the characteristic industries of Maryland for 50 years, and the brick made from the fire-clays of the Pottsville formation in Allegany county are regarded as the best in this country. The oldest fire-brick concern in Allegany county, that at Mount Savage, was organized in 1841 and was the first of its kind in the United States. The main fire-clay deposit lies