

O5892 Bone Ash

Chemical composition: tricalcium phosphate $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$

Bone ash is made by calcining animal bones. It often contains additional traces of calcium carbonate and other minor constituents.

Ash from the bones of different animals varies a little in composition.

Bone ash is a grayish white, slightly gritty powder. For the silver point technique, it was used for its abrasive properties and tooth on paper and parchment in medieval times.

Excerpts from: *Painting Materials* by Rutherford J. Gettens and George L. Stout