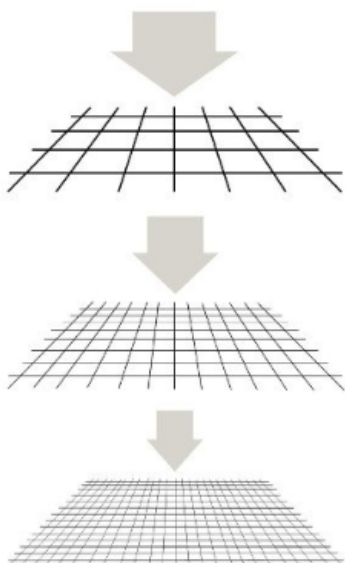


# Describing Perlite Particle Size

Different grades of perlite are often described in terms of particle size distribution. This is measured by taking a representative sample of the product and pouring it onto a stack of screens – starting with the largest screen size on top, and getting successively smaller as you go down.



Screen sizes can be in inches, US Mesh, millimeters or microns.

The amount of perlite collected on each screen is collected and measured – usually by both volume and weight. The results can be described in two equally valid ways – RETAINED or PASSING. For example: If 70% of the sample was retained on a specific screen – then it follows that 30% of the sample passed through that same screen.

Below is an example of how the same sample of expanded perlite can be described by both methods:

US Mesh *	% Retained by Vol.	% Passing by Vol.
8	15	85
16	55	30
30	20	10
Pan	10	0

\*(as mesh number increases, the actual holes in the screen get smaller – a #8 mesh screen is 8 holes per inch minus the width of the wires in that inch of screen.)

The description of a perlite sample usually includes the density of the material – and is often referred to as a SIEVE ANALYSIS or a CERTIFICATE of ANALYSIS.