

Wilmington Operations Fact Sheet



U.S. Borax, a Rio Tinto company, began operations at our Wilmington facility in 1924 and, today, manufactures spray dry and zinc borate, used for wood preservation, flame and smoke retardants, and agricultural applications.

Our operations

The U.S. Borax Wilmington site is the only privately owned facility in the Port of Los Angeles. Located at berths 165-166 in the Port of Wilmington, California, the facility includes:

- A three-story refinery building
- Steam generation plant
- Warehousing facilities
- Truck and container loading docks
- A wharf with ship loading system
- A two-story office building

More than 36,000 tons of packaged goods are produced and shipped, and more than 300,000 tons of bulk material are shipped to customers in Europe, Malaysia, and China.

In addition to about 20 salaried employees, the Wilmington facility employs more than 60 hourly employees who are represented by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 20.



Our minerals

Borates are minerals that contain boron, the fifth element on the periodic table. Borates are basically salts and are essential to life—plants need borates to grow and they are part of a healthy diet. Borates can also be found in a wide variety of products including:

- Fiberglass, wood preservatives, and ceramics used to make homes safer and more energy efficient
- Heat-resistant glass used in flat-screen televisions, laptop computers, and smart phones
- Textile fiberglass used in sporting equipment and wind energy systems
- Fertilizers that help farmers increase crop quality and yield

Did you know?

- The first historically verifiable use of borates was by Arabian gold- and silver-smiths, who used them as refining and soldering agents in the 8th century AD
- Borates were used in ceramic glazes in China by the 11th century AD
- Because boron is naturally present in plants, people in a wide range of cultures consume about two milligrams of boron per day as part of a healthy diet



Our community

We began our Sustainable Development program in 2001 to guide how we measure, improve, and report on social, environmental, and economic performance. We are continuously working to reduce water, energy, and greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of this commitment, Wilmington Operations has an active recycling program that includes scrap metal, paper, wood, and plastics. Dedicated bins are placed throughout the property for collecting recyclables, with proceeds used to fund community involvement initiatives.

Through a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Wilmington, profits from the recycling fund are used to purchase school backpacks and supplies for low income students in the community.

Wilmington Operations is also a member of both the Wilmington and Long Beach Chambers of Commerce.

Our future

U.S. Borax is recognized as a world leader in borate supply and science. As one of the richest borate deposits on the planet, our mine in Boron, California supplies more than 30% of the world's demand for refined borates—minerals essential to modern life and modern living.

The company's success spans three centuries—an achievement that rests on its ability to meet or exceed expectations:

- Our employees expect a safe workplace and competitive compensation
- Our customers expect excellent products and services
- Our neighbors expect us to operate responsibly
- Our shareholders expect a return on their investment

While the twenty mule teams used to haul ore from the company's original mines are long gone, the *20 Mule Team*[®] Borax product brand has endured as a symbol of our commitment to innovation.

Our global reach

Boron, California, USA

Primary mine, refineries, and laboratory

Changshu, Jiangsu, China

Shipping facility

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Americas headquarters

Coudekerque, France

Refineries and shipping facility

Frankfurt, Germany

European headquarters

Jadar, Serbia

Lithium-borate development project

Nules, Spain

Shipping facility

Owens Lake, California, USA

Trona mine

Port Klang, Malaysia

Shipping facility

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Shipping facility

Singapore

Asia-Pacific headquarters

Wilmington, California, USA

Refineries and shipping facility

