

Lithic technology and use wear

Obsidian is perfectly knappable and gives sharp though brittle edges. Even the cortexed pieces can be used advantageously. Small size is obviously no obstacle: it is perfectly suited for microblade technology. Compared to siliceous raw materials, especially limnic and hydrothermal siliceous rocks of geographically similar provenance, the raw material pieces (lumps) are transported longer and used more economically. The characteristic patterns of use-wear are also different: obsidian is softer and more easily scratched by accidental injuries, making the identification of use-wear patterns difficult. Black non-translucent obsidian varieties were, rarely, also polished and used as the first prehistoric mirrors, unusual vessels or subjects of religious sense.