

Abstract

A decoloring agent for fats and oils or mineral oils, comprising an activated clay obtained by treating a dioctahedral smectite clay mineral with an acid, wherein the activated clay has an average particle diameter (D_{50}) of 20 to 30 μm calculated as the volume relying upon the laser diffraction scattering method and contains fine particles of not larger than 5 μm in an amount of not larger than 15% by volume, has a bulk density in a range of 0.60 to 0.70 g/cc, has a pore volume at pore diameters of 17 to 3,000 Å of 0.35 to 0.40 cc/g as measured relying upon the nitrogen adsorption method, and has a ratio of the bulk density and the pore volume (bulk density/pore volume) in a range of 1.55 to 1.95. The decoloring agent has excellent filtering property, high decoloring property and low oil retention.