

Matched set of three Victorian pestles and mortars

£125



Description

A matched set of three graduated Victorian chemist's ceramic pestles and mortars, circa 1880.

Sizes (d x h):

19 x 11 cm

15 x 9 cm

11 x 7 cm

Ceramic pestles and mortars are ideal for grinding medicinal ingredients. Known for their smooth surfaces, they resist absorbing flavours and odours, making them great for a variety of uses. Unlike stone, ceramic is gentle on delicate ingredients, creating fine powders and pastes without excessive wear.

The mortar and pestle, one of humanity's oldest tools, dates back to around 35,000 B.C. in the Stone Age. Originally made of stone, these tools were used to crush grains, herbs, and spices for food preparation. Ancient cultures worldwide, from Egypt and Greece to India and China, utilises mortar and pestles in medicine and cuisine. By the Middle Ages, these tools were essential in apothecaries and kitchens, symbolising both culinary and medicinal traditions that endure today.