

Mineral Fact Sheet



Quartz is found in all rock types - sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic and is one of the most abundant minerals on Earth. It's a very hard mineral and contains the elements silicon and oxygen (SiO_2). Quartz has many uses, including: glassmaking, jewelry and gemstones, watches and clocks, abrasives, and tool sharpening.



Galena is a lead sulfide mineral with a chemical composition of PbS . Galena was mined for its lead content as early as 3,000 BC. It has a cubic crystal structure and fresh pieces usually have a metallic luster. It was used in ancient Egypt as eye kohl (eye liner). It is mined for its lead content which is used in batteries, ammunition, atomic shielding, and weights such as fishing line sinkers.



Calcite is the most stable form of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) and is a very common mineral. It's the main component of the sedimentary rock limestone. Limestone (made of calcite) is used for construction aggregate and in the production of lime and cement. Calcite is found in over 300 different shapes - more shapes than any other mineral!



The name **feldspar** refers to a group of minerals that have alumina and silica (SiO_2) in their chemical composition. Feldspars are the most abundant mineral group on Earth and make up nearly 60% of Earth's crust. Feldspars are used in glassmaking, ceramics, as fillers in paints, and in plastics and rubber.



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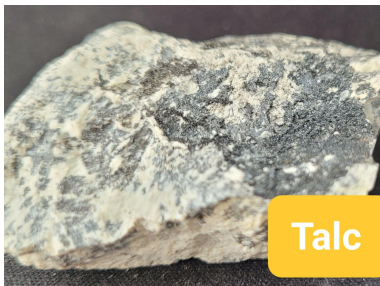
Hematite is the principal ore of iron. It's mined all over the world for industrial uses such as paint pigments, x-ray protection and shielding, and in production of ship ballasts. Hematite is the source for nearly 90% of all iron mined in the U.S. and is the reason that many sedimentary rocks, such as sandstone, have red hues.



Gypsum is a very soft mineral, with a hardness of 1.5-2 on Mohs Scale. It's composed of calcium sulfate and forms within layers of sedimentary rocks in lagoons or locations where ocean water has evaporated. Gypsum is processed and used in building plaster or drywall, cement, and in agricultural fertilizers.



Magnetite is composed of iron and oxygen (iron oxide Fe_3O_4). Magnetite is the most magnetic of all the naturally-occurring minerals on Earth. Magnetite is found in the igneous rock diabase, in sedimentary rocks that contain black sand, and in banded iron formations around the world, including those in Michigan. The iron from magnetite is used in the steel industry, as a pigment for paints and ceramics, and as a micronutrient in fertilizers.



Talc is composed of magnesium, silicon, oxygen, and hydrogen. Talc is known as the softest mineral on Earth - so soft that you can scratch it with your fingernail. It has a greasy feel with a dull luster. Talc is usually crushed into a powder form for use in cosmetics and baby powders. It's also used to prevent slippage in latex gloves as well as in electronics, paint fillers, and insecticides.

