

Light Colored Non-metallic minerals

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Cleavage is excellent or good

Hardness less than 5.5
Soft Minerals

Cleavage is poor or absent

Colorless, white, yellow, green, pink, or brown, 3 excellent cleavages, breaks into rhombohedrons, hardness of 3, Reacts to acid

Calcite

Colorless, white, gray, crme, or pink; 3 excellent cleavages; breaks into rhombohedrons; reacts to acid if powdered; hardness of 3.5-4

Dolomite

Colorless or white with tints of brown, yellow, blue, black; short tabular crystals and roses; very heavy; hardness of 3 -3.5

Barite

Colorless, white, or gray; massive or tabular crystals, blades, or needles; can be scratched with your fingernail, hardness of 2

Gypsum

Colorless, white, gray, or pale green, yellow or ed; spheres or radiating needles, silky luster, hardness of 5-5.5

Natrolite

Colorless, white, yellow, blue, brown, or red; cubic crystals; breaks into cubes; salty taste; hardness of 2.5

Halite

Colorless, purple, blue, gray, green, yellow; cubes with octahedral cleavage; hardness of 4

Fluorite

Colorless, yellow, brown, or red-brown; short opaque prisms; splits along 1 excellent cleavage into thin flexible transparent sheets; hardness of 2 -2.5

Muscovite mica

Yellow crystals or earthy masses; luster greasy; hardness of 1.5 - 2.5

Sulfur

Opaque pale blue to blue-green; amorphous crusts or massive; very light blue streak; hardness of 2-4

Chrysocolla

Opaque green, yellow, or gray; dull or silky masses or asbestos; white streak; hardness 2-2.5

Serpentine

Opaque white, gray, green, or brown; can be scratched with a fingernail; greasy or soapy feel; hardness of 1

Talc

Opaque earthy white to very light brown; powdery; greasy feel; hardness of 1-2

Kaolinite

Colorless to white, orange, yellow, brown, blue, gray, green or red; may have play of colors; conchoidal fracture; hardness of 5 -5.5

Opal

Colorless or pale green, brown, blue, white, or purple; Brittle hexagonal prisms; conchoidal fracture; hardness of 5

Apatite

Adapted From Richard M. Busch Editor; AGI/NAGT Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology