

MINERAL IDENTIFICATION KEY

Luster	Color	Streak	Hardness Range	Hardness	Cleavage	Fracture	Properties	Probable Mineral
metallic	black or gray	black	harder than glass	5½–6½	indistinct	uneven	magnetic	magnetite
			softer than fingernail	1–2	perfect in one direction	flaky—sheets	greasy feel, crumbly	graphite
	brass-yellow or gold	greenish-black	harder than glass	6–6½	indistinct	uneven	"fool's gold," iridescent	pyrite
	gray to silver	dark gray	softer than fingernail	2½	perfect in three directions—cubic	subconchoidal	very dense (7.6 g/mL)	galena
	metallic gray to red	red	harder than glass	5½–6½	none	uneven		hematite
vitreous	colorless (other colors due to impurities)	white	harder than copper coin	4	perfect octahedral	uneven to conchoidal		fluorite
	colorless to white (other colors due to impurities)		softer than fingernail	2–2½	perfect cubic	conchoidal		halite
	white, gray, bluish-white, greenish-white, reddish-white		harder than glass	6–6½	good	brittle		plagioclase
	yellow to green	white to gray		6½–7	poor	conchoidal to brittle		olivine

Luster	Color	Streak	Hardness Range	Hardness	Cleavage	Fracture	Properties	Probable Mineral
vitreous to pearly	brown, greenish-brown, yellow, white	white	harder than fingernail	2½–3	perfect in one direction	micaceous—sheets		biotite
	colorless to white (other colors due to impurities)		harder than fingernail	3	good in three directions	conchoidal	fluorescent, fizzes in acid, double refraction	calcite
	colorless, greenish, grayish, yellow, white, pink		harder than glass	6	good to perfect			orthoclase
	white, gray to pink		harder than copper coin	3½–4	perfect rhombohedral	conchoidal	fizzes in acid	dolomite
vitreous to resinous	any color	white	harder than streak plate	6½–7½	indistinct	conchoidal to uneven		garnet
vitreous to waxy	colorless (other colors due to impurities)			7		conchoidal		quartz
vitreous, silky, or pearly	white, gray; or silver		softer than fingernail	2½ on cleavage; 4 across	perfect in one direction	micaceous—sheets		muscovite
vitreous, silky, pearly, or waxy	colorless to white (other colors due to impurities)			1½–2	perfect in one direction	conchoidal		gypsum
waxy or pearly	light to dark green, brown, white, gray			1	perfect in one direction	flat surfaces	greasy feel	talc
fibrous or silky	white, brown, green, black		harder than glass	6	good in two directions; not at right angles			amphibole (group)
glassy	white, green, brown	white to gray	harder than glass	5–6½	good in two directions; at right angles			pyroxene (group)

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