Key to Common Metamorphic Rocks

Non-Foliated (Granular)

- Translucent pale colors
- Dark, dull, opaque colors;
- Crs. grained; schistose or banded

Foliated

- Fine grained; slatey cleavage
- Reacts with dilute hydrochloric acid
- Reacts without powdering

Non-Foliated (Granular)

- Fused quartz grains
- Dense, compact conchoidal fracture
- Schistose; quartz/feldspar/mica completely intermixed
- Banded into light (quartz/feldspar) & dark (biotite/amphibole/layers)

Gneiss

- Garnet, staurolite, kyanite, sillimanite may be present

Schist

- Slatey cleavage into smooth flat sheets

Phyllite

- Slatey cleavage to weak schistosity; may be folded

Soapstone

- Softer than fingernail
- Greasy feel; green, yellow, black

Limestone Marble

- No dilute hydrochloric acid reaction
- Softer than fingernail
- Greasy feel; mostly talc

Dolomitic Marble

- Harder than fingernail
- Slippery feel; mostly talc

Serpentinite

Quartzite

Hornfels

1 (Shale), slate, and phyllite complete intergrade with each other. Distinctions may be difficult.

2 Soapstone may be weakly foliated.