

Minerals Softer Than Glass

Good Streak

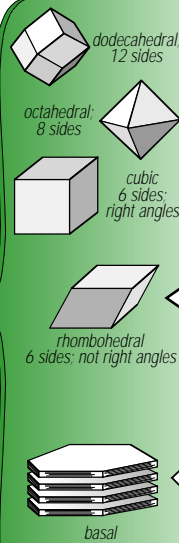
Red to red-brown streak	<i>Hardness</i> 5.5	Red to purple to black; dull earthy appearance;	HEMATITE	<i>does form crystals, but we mostly see the finely disseminated kind</i>
Dark gray to black streak	1-2	Black, greasy feel, smudges easily, writes on paper	GRAPHITE	<i>metallic luster may be very shiny like polished metal, or dull, like tarnished metal, or even powdery like rust</i>
	2.5	Shiny silver-gray; cubic cleavage; very heavy;	GALENA	
Greenish black streak	3.5-4	Brassy yellow; may be tarnished to bronze or iridescent	CHALCOPYRITE	
Yellow-brown streak	5	Yellow to dark brown; sometimes earthy, soft and crumbly	LIMONITE	

Metallic Luster

Harder Than Fingernail

Cleavage Excellent

flat, shiny cleavage faces reflect light well



<i>Cleavages</i> 6	Dark yellow-brown to black; resinous luster; flat shiny faces	SPHALERITE	<i>streak smells like rotten eggs; often masses of small xystals</i>
4	Bluish to purple common; clear to transparent also found	FLUORITE	<i>look for triangular faces of octahedral cleavage</i>
3	Clear to translucent; perfect cubic cleavage, salty taste	HALITE	
3	Clear to white; readily reacts with HCl acid	CALCITE	
	White other pale colors; HCl reaction slow; or only powdered	DOLOMITE	
1	Colorless; clear; thin flexible sheets; can be peeled	MUSCOVITE	<i>the perfect basal cleavage which is always visible is the distinguishing feature for these minerals</i>
	Black, very shiny, flat, opaque sheets; can be peeled	BIOTITE	
	Dark green; flat, flexible sheets; but often in masses of tiny crystals	CHLORITE	<i>practically, cleavage is rarely seen in lab specimens; use color</i>

Non-Metallic Luster

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Cleavage Not Obvious
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White usually, but also pink; three distinct varieties	GYPSUM	<i>Alabaster=massive Satin spar=fibrous Selenite=transparent basal cleavage</i>
Reddish-brown to Green, prismatic crystals; poor basal cleav.	APATITE	
Dark yellow-brown to black; resinous luster	SPHALERITE	<i>streak smells like rotten eggs; often masses of small xystals</i>
Dark green; flexible sheets; but often in masses of tiny crystals	CHLORITE	<i>practically, cleavage is rarely seen in lab specimens; use color</i>

No Cleavage

Yellow to dark brown; sometimes earthy	LIMONITE	<i>cleavage is very hard to see in some minerals because it is poorly developed or the crystals are small; these minerals have no cleavage at all.</i>
Reddish, whiteish; ~ 1/4 inch spherical structures in earthy matrix	BAUXITE	

Softer Than Fingernail

<i>Hardness</i> 1	Greenish-white; pearly to greasy; often small crystal masses	TALC	<i>has perfect basal cleavage, but often hard to see</i>
2	White; soapy feel; dull, earthy. A type of clay	KAOLINITE	
3	White, also pink; three distinct varieties; all cleavages rarely seen	GYPSUM	<i>Alabaster=massive Satin spar=fibrous Selenite=transparent basal cleavage</i>