

Properties of Minerals



Mineral	Color	Luster	Streak	Hardness	Distinguishing Properties
Calcite	white/clear	glassy	white	3	fizzes with acid good cleavage
Feldspar	white/pink	glassy	white	6	cleavage
Galena	lead gray	metallic	lead gray	2.5	cubic cleavage
Gold	bright yellow	metallic	yellow	2.5–3	conducts electricity
Halite (rock salt)	colorless	glassy	white	2.5	salty taste cubic cleavage
Hematite	metallic gray or red	metallic or earthy	dark red or red brown	5–6	brownish red streak
Hornblende	green or black	glassy	pale gray	5.5	good cleavage
Magnetite	iron black	metallic	black	6	magnetic
Malachite	bright green	dull	pale green	3.5	bright green color
Mica	silvery or black	pearly	white	2.5	flaky cleavage
Olivine	olive green	glassy	gray-white	6.5	stubby crystals
Pyrite	yellow gold	metallic	green-black	6.5	looks like gold cubic cleavage
Quartz	white; other colors	glassy	white	7	no cleavage curved fracture
Sulfur	yellow	shiny or earthy	yellow	2	odor of rotten eggs when wet

Note: This chart includes some minerals that are not in the kit.