



Minerals

Sulfur

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Crystallography:

Orthorhombic; $2/m2/m2/m$. Crystals commonly dipyramidal; thick tabular on {001.} Also massive, in spherical or reniform shapes, incrusting, earthy.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: None. Fracture conchoidal to uneven; brittle.

Hardness: 1.5-2.5.

Specific Gravity: 2.05-2.09.

Luster: Resinous.

Color: Yellow to yellowish-brown. Transparent to translucent.

Streak: White to pale yellow.

Composition/Features:

Sulfur is a native element identified by its yellow color, low hardness, lack of cleavage, and the ease with which it burns. Fusible at 1 and burns with a blue flame to sulfur dioxide. Insoluble in water; unaffected by most acids.

Occurrence/Use:

Occurs frequently at or near crater rims or volcanoes where it is deposited as a sublimation product from volcanic gases. Sulfur may also be found in veins where it is formed by the oxidation of sulfides. Present in the cap rock of some salt domes, it is removed by the Frasch method. Used primarily to produce sulfuric acid; also used in insecticides, in fertilizers, and in the manufacture of many sulfur compounds.