



Rocks

Graywacke

Type:

Sedimentary; clastic.

Texture/Appearance:

Generally coarse-grained with angular to sub-angular, poorly sorted grains in a clayey matrix. May show graded bedding; fossils are rare.

Color:

Gray to greenish-gray, brown.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Clasts composed essentially of quartz, feldspar and rock fragments in almost equal amounts, with a clayey or chloritic matrix. Typically, K-feldspars and rock fragments make up more than 25% of the rock with the balance quartz sand.

Occurrence/Use:

Usually associated with marine shales, submarine lavas and bedded chert. Generally produced by currents of submarine currents of silt that flow down a continental slope and are redeposited. Typically found in active tectonic environments. Widespread occurrence, particularly in Paleozoic rocks of the U.S. and Europe, and in Cretaceous rocks of Japan. Used as a local construction stone.