



Rocks

Serpentinite

Type:

Metamorphic; regional.

Texture/Appearance:

Fine to coarse-grained, lamellar or mesh-like; massive with frequent zonations and veins.

Color:

Dark green to black.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Ultramafic; composed essentially of serpentine (antigorite, lizardite) and magnetite. Lesser amounts of chrysotile, talc, chlorite, brucite, and garnierite; relics of olivine and pyroxene.

Occurrence/Use:

Derived from the low-grade regional metamorphism of ultramafic rocks (peridotite, pyroxenite, amphibolite, and gabbro) in the presence of abundant water. Often associated with important deposits of talc, asbestos, iron, copper, and nickel. May be polished and used as an ornamental stone.