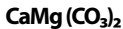




Minerals

Dolomite



Crystallography:

Hexagonal-R; $\bar{3}$. Crystals usually unit rhombohedron, or a steep rhombohedron and base; faces often curved. Twinning common. Also coarse, granular, cleavable masses to fine-grained, compact.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: {101 $\bar{1}$ } perfect; 3 cleavage directions. Fracture subconchoidal; brittle.

Hardness: 3.5-4.0.

Specific Gravity: 2.85.

Luster: Vitreous to pearly in some varieties.

Color: Colorless, white, gray, but commonly pink, flesh-color; transparent to translucent.

Streak: White.

Composition/Features:

A carbonate material similar in structure to calcite, but with Ca and Mg layers alternating along the c-axis. Dolomite is infusible and soluble with effervescence only in hot HCl. Usually distinguished by its flesh-pink color and curved rhombohedral crystals, and less vigorous reaction than calcite in cold HCl.

Occurrence/Use:

Dolomite is found chiefly as sedimentary strata in many parts of the world. As a rock mass, it is thought to have formed secondarily from ordinary limestone. It also occurs as a hydrothermal vein mineral. Used as a building and ornamental stone and for the manufacture of magnesia; a potential ore of metallic Mg.