



# Rocks

## Basalt

### Type:

Igneous; extrusive/intrusive.

### Texture/Appearance:

Fine-grained intergranular plagioclase, pyroxene, and oxides; may contain interstitial glass. Structure massive with some vacuoles occurring.

### Color:

Black to dark gray or brown.

### Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Mafic; composed chiefly of calcic plagioclase (50%-75%) and pyroxene (25%-50%). Minor amounts of quartz, olivine potassium feldspar, and amphibole, with apatite and magnetite important accessories. Olivine, pyroxene, and plagioclase phenocrysts may occasionally be present. The fine-grained equivalent of gabbro.

### Occurrence/Use:

The most common extrusive rock may also be intrusive as dikes. Typically forms in expansive traps and volcanic lava flows issuing from deep linear fissures. Submarine flows also occur along mid-oceanic rift zones. Large surficial deposits occur along the Columbia River Plateau of Oregon & Washington. The Hawaiian Islands are also basaltic in origin. Used widely as an aggregate and road metal.