



# Rocks

## Breccia

**Type:**

Sedimentary; clastic.

**Texture/Appearance:**

Coarse-grained, angular rock fragments cemented in a fine- to very fine-grained matrix. Clasts have sharp edges.

**Color:**

Variable.

**Mineralogy/Chemistry:**

Composition varies with the source rock and cementation. Clasts may be composed of rocks of any type; matrix and cement are generally clayey, siliceous, calcareous, or limonitic.

**Occurrence/Use:**

Found in active tectonic settings where accumulation of angular rock fragments can occur due to fracturing or dislocation of pre-existing deposits. Volcanic breccias result from explosive activity. Sedimentary breccias can form from the consolidation of talus, collapse of rocks or cave-ins in karst areas, or may represent fractured material along fault escarpments. Breccias are fairly common in occurrence, but usually limited in extent. Found in many limestone and dolomite formations, and sometimes used commercially for decorative building stone.