



# Minerals

## Quartz (variety Chert)

$\text{SiO}_2$

### Crystallography:

Hexagonal -R; 32 (low-quartz). Hexagonal; 622 (high quartz). Cryptocrystalline; massive granular.

### Physical Properties:

**Cleavage:** Generally none; occasional indistinct rhombohedral parting. Fracture conchoidal; brittle.

**Hardness:** 7.0

**Specific Gravity:** 2.60

**Luster:** Subvitreous.

**Color:** Dull colors, usually gray or lighter hues. Subtranslucent to opaque.

**Streak:** White.

### Composition/Features:

Most nearly a pure chemical compound of silicon and oxygen with constant physical properties. Resembles flint but generally lighter in color, more brittle, and displaying a more splintery fracture. Infusible. Insoluble except in hydrofluoric acid.

### Occurrence/Use:

Occurrence widespread in bedded deposits. Like flint, often used by primitive peoples for stone tools of all kinds.