



Minerals

Actinolite

$\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{+2})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ (Amphibole Group)

Crystallography:

Monoclinic; $2/m$. Crystals usually prismatic; columnar or fibrous. Also massive or granular.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: {110} perfect; Cleavage angle = 56° .

Hardness: 5-6.

Specific Gravity: 3.0-3.3.

Luster: Vitreous.

Color: White to green.

Streak: White.

Composition/Features:

A complete solid solution exists from tremolite to ferroactinolite, with actinolite used to designate intermediate members. Characterized by slender prisms and good prismatic cleavage. A calcium-magnesium-iron amphibole.

Occurrence/Use:

Characteristic of greenschist facies of metamorphism. Compact variety called *nephrite (jade)* is used as an ornamental and gem material.