



Minerals

Bauxite

$\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3/\text{AlO} \cdot \text{OH}$

Crystallography:

A mixture; often pisolitic in round concretionary grains, and also earthy, massive.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: None; uneven fracture.

Hardness: 1.0-3.0.

Specific Gravity: 2.0-2.55.

Luster: Dull to earthy.

Color: White, gray, yellow, red; translucent.

Streak: White.

Composition/Features:

Not technically a mineral species, bauxite is a mixture of hydrous aluminum oxides in varying proportions. Its principal constituents are gibbsite, boehmite, and diaspore, any one of which may be dominant. Often recognized by its pisolitic character. Infusible; insoluble.

Occurrence/Use:

Bauxite is the ore of aluminum, with principal world producers in the Caribbean basin and South America, and with major deposits in the southeastern U.S. Frequently formed under subtropical to tropical climatic conditions by prolonged leaching of silica from aluminum-bearing rocks.