



Rocks

Diorite

Type:

Igneous; intrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Massive, generally medium-to-coarse grained; subhedral, equigranular to porphyritic. Differences in color and grain size are common with orbicular structure sometimes present.

Color:

Medium gray to blackish-gray with common speckled “salt and pepper” appearance.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Intermediate in composition, consisting of plagioclase (60%-75%) and hornblende (25%-40%) with biotite, pyroxene, quartz, various oxides and potassium feldspars present in smaller amounts.

Occurrence/Use:

A plutonic rock occurring as marginal facies of granitic plutons or as small intrusive bodies. Some diorites may form through the hybridization of silicic magma with rock of mafic composition or by assimilation of felsic materials by more mafic magma. Roughly the intrusive equivalent of andesite, diorite grades into monzonite with an increase in alkali feldspar content. Relatively rare and widely scattered.