



# Rocks

## Limestone

### Type:

Sedimentary; chemical or clastic.

### Texture/Appearance:

Fine to coarsely crystalline; varieties may be dense, compact and graded to brecciated, styliolitic, or oolitic. Stratification usually indistinct; fracture sometimes conchoidal. Fossils common.

### Color:

Commonly gray, tan, or brown, but variable with the presence of iron oxides or carbon.

### Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Chiefly composed of calcite with dolomite. Minor amounts of quartz, feldspars, clays, pyrite, and siderite may be present. Aragonite may also be present in recently formed rocks. Effervesces vigorously with dilute hydrochloric acid.

### Occurrence/Use:

Formed by organic or inorganic means, usually in a marine environment. Typically, limestones form from the accumulation of marine organisms. Their classification depends on texture, the presence of fossils, and their mode of deposition. Some specific types include **oolitic**, **coquina**, and **travertine**. Other varieties are variously described by the nature of the fossils or minerals present. Limestone is widespread, and it is commonly used for building material, concrete, and a variety of commercial applications.