



Rocks

Phyllite

Type:

Metamorphic, regional.

Texture/Appearance:

Very fine-grained showing strong schistosity; commonly displaying crenulated (wavy) cleavage. Generally coarser than slate. Cleavage surface exhibits a micaceous sheen.

Color:

Silvery gray to greenish-gray.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Composed essentially of sericite mica, chlorite, and quartz, with minor amounts of various sulfides, oxides, and sometimes graphite.

Occurrence/Use:

Found in most areas of regional metamorphism, often as the result of retrograde metamorphism of rocks of higher grade. Represents a higher metamorphic grade than slate. Common in the Alps, Germany, and the U.K., as well as in New England. Sometimes used locally as roofing material.