



Rocks

Schist

Type:

Metamorphic; regional.

Texture/Appearance:

Fine to coarse-grained strongly foliated. Granoblastic grading into porphyroblastic, with mineral segregation banding usually present. Individual minerals are generally macroscopic with oriented mica minerals abundant. Over 50% of minerals show parallelism.

Color:

Variable with mineralogy; shiny, typically silvery-gray for muscovite-rich varieties and brown or black for biotite-rich types.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Composed principally of quartz and micas with a variety of possible accessory minerals. Porphyroblasts may be garnet, andalusite, or kyanite. Mineralogy highly dependent on starting composition of metamorphosed rock.

Occurrence/Use:

A medium to high-grade regional metamorphic rock common to many worldwide metamorphic belts. Many types of schist are derived from metasedimentary rocks rich in clay and quartz, and are often associated with gneisses formed by the alteration of shales and arkoses. May be used in mineral processing when rich in specific minerals like talc, kyanite, andalusite, etc.