



Rocks

Skarn

Type:

Metamorphic; contact.

Texture/Appearance:

Most often coarse-grained and granoblastic with no foliation. Massive structure with zones of mineral concentration.

Color:

Varies with mineralogy, but usually dark brown, black, reddish, or white.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Composed of a granoblastic intergrowth of calcium-bearing silicates, including tremolite, diopside, wollastinite, scapolite, epidote, calcium garnets, vesuvianite, etc.

Occurrence/Use:

A high-grade metamorphic rock formed in the contact metamorphic aureoles of “dirty” (impure) carbonate country rocks. It grades from the igneous intrusion outward to the unaltered carbonate beds. Skarn can be a valuable resource where concentrations of copper, iron, manganese, and molybdenum are present.