



Rocks

Andesite

Type:

Igneous; extrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Generally fine-grained, aphanitic. Massive structure, often porphyritic with phenocrysts standing out in a vitreous or fine-grained groundmass.

Color:

Dark to medium gray; may be mottled green, brown or white.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Composed primarily of plagioclase (up to 75%) and mafic minerals (hornblende, biotite and/ or augite—25%-40%). Phenocrysts may be composed of any of the above, and in the case of plagioclase, are often zoned.

Occurrence/Use:

Commonly associated with lava flows and domes, particularly in regions with marked tectonic activity. Found as a major constituent of the volcanics in the Andes of South America and the Cascades of Western North America. Associated with porphyry copper ores, and locally used as building material.