



Rocks

Dolostone

Type:

Sedimentary, chemical.

Texture/Appearance:

Fine to coarsely crystalline grain size; sugary (saccharoidal). May contain various fossil relicts, molds, and casts. Stratification absent or irregular.

Color:

Light to medium gray, brown, or pinkish.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

A carbonate rock largely composed of dolomite and calcite, with minor amounts of clay, quartz, chert and iron sulfides. May effervesce very slowly with cold dilute hydrochloric acid.

Occurrence/Use:

Some dolostones may form from direct precipitation of sea water, but most appear to replace limestone just after limestone deposition (by influx of magnesium from solution). Widespread Cambrian deposits. Used locally for construction or crushed stone.