



# Rocks

## Obsidian

**Type:**

Igneous; extrusive

**Texture/Appearance:**

Glassy with rare microphenocrysts or spherulites; conchoidal fracture.

**Color:**

Shiny black to brown.

**Mineralogy/Chemistry:**

A natural glass or rhyolitic (felsic) composition; essentially quartz with feldspars as microphenocrysts and quartz in spherulites.

**Occurrence/Use:**

Forms from rapid cooling of granitic magma, either as a lava flow or along a chill margin of a small intrusive body. Commonly found in the Western U.S. and elsewhere associated with lava flows from felsic volcanoes. Used in ancient times by primitive peoples to make weapons and tools; now used principally for jewelry and decorative purposes.