



Rocks

Peridotite

Type:

Igneous; intrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Medium to coarse-grained; massive, granular, sometimes porphyritic.

Color:

Medium gray to greenish-gray.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Ultramafic, with mafic minerals greater than 90% (primarily olivine and pyroxene.) May include small amounts of plagioclase, hornblende, or mica, with spinels (chromite) as a minor accessory.

Occurrence/Use:

Generally found as small intrusives or in large units at the base of stratificatiform igneous bodies. Major occurrences are found in the complexes of the Bushveld in South Africa; Still water, Montana; and Sudbury, Ontario. Frequently associated with deposits of chromium, platinum, palladium, and other rare metals. Varietal names of peridotites include **dunite**, **harzburgite**, **wehrlite**, and **lherzolite**.