



# Rocks

## Pumice

**Type:**

Igneous; extrusive (pyroclastic).

**Texture/Appearance:**

Glassy, vesicular, foamy, frothy. Very light-weight with numerous vacuoles (some varieties float in water). A natural glass froth in which the volume of air spaces generally equals or exceeds the volume of glass.

**Color:**

White, gray to pink.

**Mineralogy/Chemistry:**

Usually felsic; essentially a natural glass with crystals of various silicates, zeolites, and calcite present.

**Occurrence/Use:**

Occurs as ejected material from explosive volcanism or as crust on lava flows. Common in felsic volcanoes such as those found in the Lipari Islands, Italy; in Japan and Indonesia; and in the volcanic sequences of the Western U.S. Used as a reasonably good abrasive and as a lightweight aggregate.