



Rocks

Rhyolite

Type:

Igneous; extrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Fine-grained, cryptocrystalline (and glassy) to microcrystalline; often porphyritic. May show flow banding.

Color:

Light colored; pink, gray, and purple.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Felsic; essentially feldspars (14-80%) and quartz (20-60%) with minor amounts of biotite, hornblende, and tridymite. Phenocrysts may be quartz or feldspar.

Occurrence/Use:

The extrusive equivalent of granite, rhyolite is commonly found as small intrusives (dikes, chimneys, domes) and also as lava flows where viscous magma or granitic composition has rapidly cooled. Widespread in occurrence, rhyolites are particularly abundant in Oregon, California, and Colorado volcanic sequences. Limited commercial value.