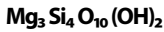




# Minerals

## Talc



### Crystallography:

Monoclinic;  $2/m$ . Rarely in crystals; more often in foliated masses or compact fine-grained aggregates. Compact and massive varieties known as *steatite* or *soapstone*.

### Physical Properties:

**Cleavage:** {001} perfect. Cleavage folia flexible but not elastic; sectile.

Fracture conchoidal; brittle.

**Hardness:** 1.0.

**Specific Gravity:** 2.7-2.8.

**Luster:** Pearly to greasy.

**Color:** Commonly pale green to gray. Translucent.

**Streak:** White.

### Composition/Features:

Talc is a magnesium silicate characterized by its micaceous habit, cleavage, softness, and greasy feel. Distinguished from pyrophyllite by chemical test for Mg. Fusible with difficulty at 5. Unaffected by acids.

### Occurrence/Use:

Talc is a secondary mineral formed by the alteration of magnesium silicates, such as olivine, pyroxenes, and amphiboles. Occurs in low- and medium-grade metamorphic rocks. In massive form, it may make up nearly the entire rock mass. Used in talcum powder, paint, ceramics, paper, and other products.