



Rocks

Tuff

Type:

Igneous; extrusive (pyroclastic).

Texture/Appearance:

Clastic texture with angular rock and mineral fragments and lapilli mixed with fine-grained volcanic ash, partly cemented by sedimentary materials (clays or calcite) or zeolites. Massive may appear thinly bedded or show flow structure.

Color:

Light to medium gray, tan, brown, or reddish.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Felsic to intermediate in composition, with quartz, plagioclase, K-feldspar, and some mafic minerals visible. Can also be basaltic.

Occurrence/Use:

Tuffs are pyroclastic rocks usually interbedded with lava in volcanoes of a mixed explosive-eruptive type, or at some distance from volcanic centers where ejecta has landed. Readily alters to clay, and can be a source of bentonite, montmorillonite, etc. Also used locally as a construction stone