

BARYTE



Barium Sulphate

Baryte, which is the most common barium mineral is also referred to as barite and is commonly called "Heavy spar" Baryte is a mineral which mainly occurs in hydrothermal deposits, and is often referred to as a gangue mineral. It is often associated with witherite, galena, and quartz. It is usually found in massive form, but it may also occur in a fibrous or lamellar form. Sometimes it is found in sandstones where it assimilates sand grains into its crystal growth, creating what are called "Desert Roses" Baryte commonly crystallises in tabular form, less commonly in prismatic form. A growth of numerous layered platelets create the "Cockscomb" variety of baryte.

Baryte is widely used in the oil drilling industry where it is added to mud to act as a lubricant and weighting agent at the drilling head. The barium which is refined from baryte has several uses, for instance, as a pigment in paints, as an additive in paper making, and it is also incorporated in special cement used in the construction of radiation screens built around radio-active apparatus and establishments. It is also used in medical diagnostic tests in the form of a barium meal prior to x-ray investigation.

BARYTE CRYSTAL HABIT



"COCKSCOMB" VARIETY



"DESERT ROSE" VARIETY

