

Almandine - $\text{Fe}^{2+}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$

Hardness = 7 - 7.5. Cleavage: None reported. Tolerates Iron OUT/EDTA as well as hot oxalic acid. Adhering mica removed with steel tools or air abrasion. Use dilute HCl to remove enclosing calcite. In some cases, badly fractured crystals cemented together with carbonates or iron oxides, whose removal will cause the specimen to disintegrate.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-452.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <https://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/almandine.pdf>

Betts, J. (2025) Mineral cleaning for amateurs.

<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/articles/minclean.htm>

Hardinger, S. (2025). Mineral Specimen Cleaning and Development for Amateurs, 339 p.

Sinkankas, J. (1972) Gemstone & Mineral Data Book, 346 p. Winchester Press, New York.