

Borax - $\text{Na}_2(\text{B}_4\text{O}_5)(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Hardness = 2 - 2.5. Cleavage: Perfect. Rapidly dissolves in water and acids. Insoluble in alcohols or acetone. Rinse only in the mother liquor from which the specimen was formed. Brine (saturated NaCl), or anhydrous alcohols less satisfactory. Loses water and converts to powdery, white tincalconite on exposure to air so needs special storage.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-722.html>

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

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

King, R. (1982) The cleaning of minerals. Journal of the Russell Society, 1 (1), 42–48.

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