

## Cerussite - $\text{PbCO}_3$

Hardness = 3 - 3.5. Cleavage: Distinct/good. Soft; brittle. Easily cleaved or broken especially at juncture of twins. Thermal shock sensitive. Tolerates sonication. Rinse with distilled water, alcohol or acetone. Quickly attacked by acids including dilute HCl and dilute  $\text{HNO}_3$  but in some cases (30% acetic acid) luster is retained. Avoid strong detergents. Suffers some degree of etching by Iron OUT or Jacquard Hydro, also with citrate alone or EDTA alone. Attacked by  $\text{NH}_4\text{HF}_2$ . Black stains - often attributed to Mn hydroxides/oxides may instead be other lead minerals (galena) and therefore cannot be removed with  $\text{H}_2\text{NOH}$  recipes. May become colored by bleach.

### References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-934.html>

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

Hardinger, S. (2024) Selective removal of carbonates: A preliminary study.

[www.mindat.org/a/hardinger005](http://www.mindat.org/a/hardinger005).

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

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