

Cinnabar - HgS

Hardness = 2 - 2.5. Cleavage: Perfect. Soft; brittle. Broad tolerance to sonication. Stable to Iron OUT with or without EDTA. Avoid strong acid treatment as this may destroy associated rare species. Inert to cold concentrated citric acid; use to etch calcite/dolomite matrix. Photosensitive; becomes dark. This coating sometimes removable by gentle work with cotton swab.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1052.html>

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

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.