

Colemanite - $\text{Ca}[\text{B}_3\text{O}_4(\text{OH})_3] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Hardness = 4.5. Cleavage: Perfect. Bladed crystals fragile; clean with care. Soluble in warm acids. Very slightly soluble in hot water so use only cold water for cleaning but avoid prolonged exposure. Avoid strong detergents. Some commonly associated species (tincalconite, kernite, etc.) attacked by water causing specimen to disintegrate; these species perhaps best removed to prolong specimen's lifetime. Rapidly becomes hazy with NH_4HF_2 .

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1108.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <https://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/colemanite.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.