

## **Cordierite - $(\text{Mg,Fe})_2\text{Al}_3(\text{AlSi}_5\text{O}_{18})$**

Hardness = 7 - 7.5. Cleavage: Imperfect/fair. Very slightly attacked by concentrated acids; most acids acceptable for cleaning but minimize contact. Weather, pseudomorphed or otherwise altered crystals often of unknown composition and therefore all cleaning chemicals should be avoided.

Iolite is varietal name for gem grade, violet blue material. Treat as described above.

### References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1128.html>

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