

Crocoite - $\text{PbCr}^{6+}\text{O}_4$

Hardness = 2.5 - 3. Cleavage: Poor/indistinct. Brittle; elongated crystals especially liable to breakage. Tolerates sonication but small crystals may become dislodged. Stable to dithionite (Iron OUT and Jacquard Hydro), bleach, $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$, 12% H_2O_2 and 30% acetic acid. Avoid acid cleaning methods if other unidentified rare minerals are present. Slightly attacked by acids but inert to concentrated H_3PO_4 (which is used to dissolve associated [gibbsite](#)). Said to be photosensitive causing gradual darkening.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1157.html>

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