

Diopside - $\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6$

Hardness: 5.5 - 6.5. Cleavage: Distinct/good. Hard enough to be scraped with steel implements but use care. Insoluble in water. Resists all common acids. Oxalic acid may be useful to loosen or remove coatings. Remove calcite with HCl. Stable to NH_4HF_2 .

Varieties/related species (treat same as diopside): Schefferite

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1294.html>

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

Weast, R., Ed. (1982) CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 2380 p., CRC Press, Inc., Cleveland.