

## Mercury (Native Mercury) - Hg

Hardness: 0 (a liquid). Cleavage: None possible (a liquid). Easily dislodged from matrix; handle with care. Poisonous. Avoid mechanical cleaning methods (including sonication although very gentle gas puffs may be tolerated) and use great care with chemical methods. Insoluble in water, ethanol or acetone. Soluble in dilute  $\text{HNO}_3$ . Insoluble in cold  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  or  $\text{HCl}$  (although Rohner reports sensitivity to  $\text{HCl}$ ). Very likely tolerant to all dithionite recipes. Although boiling point is high ( $357^\circ\text{C}$ ), mercury vapor can accumulate and is toxic. Special care is needed to thoroughly clean a spill.

### References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-2647.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <http://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/mercury.pdf>

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