

Molybdenite - MoS₂

Hardness: 1 - 1.5. Cleavage: Perfect. Soft; easily defoliated. Insoluble in water. Decomposed by HNO₃. Soluble in hot H₂SO₄ or hot HNO₃. Inert to cold saturated citric acid, cold concentrated H₂SO₄ and other dilute acids. Tolerates Iron OUT/EDTA and hot oxalic acid (but the latter etches a calcite or marble matrix). Rohner reports sensitivity to NaOH or soap.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-2746.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <https://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/molybdenite.pdf>

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Sinkankas, J. (1972) Gemstone & Mineral Data Book, 346 p. Winchester Press, New York.

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