Montmorillonite - $(Na,Ca)_{0.33}(Al,Mg)_2(Si_4O_{10})(OH)_2 \cdot nH_2O$

Hardness: 1 - 2. Cleavage: Perfect. Soft, friable. Pink material labeled as montmorillonite from some gem pegmatites is probably a mixture of species with undetermined composition. Pink color may fade in acidified H_2O_2. Likely to swell and disintegrate on prolonged exposure to water. Treat like clays.

References

Mindat: https://www.mindat.org/min-2821.html

Handbook of Mineralogy: http://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/montmorillonite.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.