Onyx - SiO_2

Hardness: 6.7–7. Cleavage: None observed. Tolerates sonication. Dyed material is often discolored by prolonged treatment in acid, alkali or bleach.

Onyx may refer to a quartz-like material or a carbonate-rich/calcite material. Test the sample with a drop of concentrated HCl. If no reaction occurs treat as described here. If effervescence occurs treat as calcite. Some samples are a mixture of these materials and should be treated as the more delicate species (calcite). See Mindat reference for more discussion.

References

Mindat: https://www.mindat.org/min-2999.html

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.