

Palygorskite - $\square\text{Al}_2\text{Mg}_2\square_2\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Hardness: 2 - 2.5. Cleavage: Distinct/good. Treat like clay. See also [mountain leather](#), the term used to describe an intertwined mat of mineral fibers.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-3072.html>

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