

Peacock ore - CuFeS_2 (chalcopyrite) or Cu_5FeS_4 (bornite)

Hardness: 3.5 - 4 ([chalcopyrite](#)) or 3 ([bornite](#)). Cleavage: Poor/indistinct (both species). Massive [chalcopyrite](#) and/or [bornite](#) having an iridescent sheen. This sheen may have been artificially induced. To clean with least risk to the sheen use mechanical methods only. Dithionite and oxalic acid likely to reduce or completely remove the iridescence.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-955.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.