

Proustite - Ag_3AsS_3

Hardness: 2 - 2.5. Cleavage: Distinct/good. Very soft; easily chipped. Sensitive to thermal shock. Insoluble in water. Tolerates sonication although avoiding sonication is recommended by some authors. Attacked by HNO_3 . Tolerates Iron OUT and tartaric acid. Avoid oxalic acid. Photosensitive; turns dark on exposure to light. May be sensitive to atmospheric oxygen.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-3294.html>

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

Gol, D. (2004) Removing iron oxides. Le Regne Mineral, 59 (5), 48-50. In French.

Hardinger, S. (2025) Mineral Specimen Cleaning and Development for the Amateur, 339 p.

Rohner, T. (2000) Properly clean minerals online cleaning book.

www.strahlen.org/stepbystep/mineralien-reinigung2.pdf. In German.

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

Weast, R., Ed. (1982) CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 2380 p., CRC Press, Inc., Cleveland.