

Realgar - AsS

Hardness: 1.5 - 2. Cleavage: Distinct/good. Soft; brittle. Dust is toxic. Thermal shock sensitive. Avoiding sonication sometimes recommended. Insoluble in water. Slightly attacked by HNO₃ but readily attacked by concentrated acids. Stable to dilute HCl (for calcite removal) but minimize exposure. Stable to tartaric acid. Soluble in concentrated alkalis. Photosensitive; alters to powdery, orange pararealgar (not orpiment as commonly stated) upon exposure to light. May be sensitive to atmospheric oxygen.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-3375.html>

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

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