

Silver (Native Silver) - Ag

Hardness: 2.5 - 3. Cleavage: None observed. Soft, easily bent, but tends to break where narrow (especially at crystal junctions). Insoluble in water. Tolerates sonication and Iron OUT/EDTA. Readily soluble in HNO₃ or hot H₂SO₄. Tolerates sulfamic acid. Inert to alkalis. Patina restored (i.e., oxidized) by H₂O₂ and bleach. Tarnishes.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-3664.html>

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

Burns, N. (1941) National Park Service Field Manual for Museums, 426 p. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Gol, D. (2004) The prospector's corner mineral collection preparation: Various recipes and "your own" from preparers. Le Regne Mineral, 60 (6), 31–34. In French.

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

Heyman, J. (2025) Acanthite forming extensively on silver after collected.

www.mindat.org/mesg-683540.html

King, R. (1983) The care of minerals section 2: The development of minerals. Journal of the Russell Society, 1 (2), 54–77.

Lieber, W. (1978) The Mineral Collector. 314 p. Ott Verlag Thun, Basel. In German.

Pearl, R. (1972) Cleaning and Preserving Minerals Fifth Revised Edition, 87 p. Earth Science Publishing Company, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Robbins, M. and Irving, M. (1981) The Amateur Archaeologist's Handbook, Third Edition, 306 p. HarperCollins Publishers, Cambridge.

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

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

Rosemeyer, T. (2025) Collector's note: A bonanza in native silver specimens, Enigma Silver Vein, Keweenaw County, Michigan. Rocks & Minerals, 100 (3), 290–295.

Scott, A. (1926) The Cleaning and Restoration of Museum Exhibits, 60 p. His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

Sinkankas, J. (1970) Prospecting for Gemstones and Minerals, 397 p. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York.

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.