

Sulfur (Sulphur; Native Sulfur) - S₈

Hardness: 1.5 - 2.5. Cleavage: Imperfect/fair. Brittle; easily damaged. Dust is toxic. Exceptionally sensitive to thermal shock; the crackling which may be heard in a hand-held specimen is caused by cracking. Warming by exposure to light may cause the same phenomenon. Insoluble in water. Inert to acids but use care. Said to be attacked by HCl (Rohner) but this is doubtful. Partially soluble (ethanol, acetone) to soluble (toluene) in some organic solvents, which should be avoided or at least used with great care. Tolerates 12% H₂O₂ and 30% acetic acid.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-3826.html>

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

DeMouthe, J. (2017) Care and Documentation of Mineral Collections, 94 p. Mineralogical Society of America, Chantilly, Virginia.

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

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

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.