



Rocks

Gabbro

Type:

Igneous; intrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Granular; medium-grained.

Color:

Dark, medium gray, green-gray or brownish-gray.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Mafic; with essential plagioclase (50%-75%) and pyroxene (25%-50%) and minor amounts of olivine, amphibole, K-feldspar, quartz and oxide minerals.

Occurrence/Use:

The intrusive equivalent of basalt, gabbro occurs as part of large, layered intrusions associated with ore deposits of chromium, nickel, cobalt, iron and platinum. May also occur as intrusive bodies in spreading oceanic crust. Common in large stratiform bodies of the Stillwater Complex in Montana, the Bushveld Complex in South Africa, and the Duluth Complex of Minnesota. Rarely used as building stone; can represent an important source of olivine for refractory use.