



# Minerals

## Quartz (variety Amethyst)



### Crystallography:

Hexagonal -R;32 (low quartz). Hexagonal; 622 (high quartz). Crystals not common. Usually massive, coarsely crystalline.

### Physical Properties:

**Cleavage:** Generally none; occasional indistinct rhombohedral parting.

Fracture conchoidal; brittle.

**Hardness:** 7.0.

**Specific Gravity:** 2.65.

**Luster:** Vitreous; dull to splendid.

**Color:** Shades of violet, due to small amounts of iron. Translucent to transparent.

**Streak:** White.

### Composition/Features:

Most nearly a pure chemical compound of silicon and oxygen with constant physical properties. Characterized by its violet color, glassy luster, conchoidal fracture, hardness, and crystal form. Infusible. Insoluble except in hydrofluoric acid.

### Occurrence/Use:

Crystals very common. Usually occurs in cavities lining volcanic rocks. Much used as an ornamental and semi-precious stone.