



# Rocks

## Slate

**Type:**

Metamorphic; regional.

**Texture/Appearance:**

Fine-grained; lacks mineral segregation banding, displays rock cleavage in one direction. Surface may appear somewhat smooth and shiny.

**Color:**

Various, including dark gray, green, or red.

**Mineralogy/Chemistry:**

Composed of chlorite, micas, and quartz with minor magnetite, hematite, rutile, pyrite, calcite and dolomite. Accessory minerals include epidote, albite, zircon, tourmaline, chiastolite and cordierite.

**Occurrence/Use:**

Formed from low-grade metamorphism of shale or clay. Slate is intermediate between shale/argillite and phyllite in the metamorphism of pelitic material. Found in France, UK, Appalachians of the eastern U.S., and the Sierra Nevadas of California. Used for roofing, flagstones, blackboards, and for billiard tables due to its cleavage properties.