



Minerals

Galena

PbS

Crystallography:

Isometric; $4/m\bar{3}2/m$. Commonly cubic, sometimes truncated by the octahedron; rarely decahedral and trisoctahedral. Also massive, granular.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: {001} perfect. Fracture subconchoidal or even; brittle.

Hardness: 2.5.

Specific Gravity: 7.4-7.6.

Luster: Bright metallic.

Color: Lead- gray to blue-black; opaque.

Streak: Gray-black.

Composition/Features:

A lead sulfide, galena can be easily recognized by its good cleavage, high specific gravity, softness, and streak color. Fusible at 2.

Occurrence/Use:

A common lead sulfide often found in veins associated with other sulfide minerals, and may contain silver itself. The primary commercial source of lead, and an important ore of silver.