

## Mineral Habits, Part 2

Habits are the distinctive form that mineral crystals may take in different geologic settings, for instance when growing in a free space or in a particular environment. Habit can be a strong clue to a mineral's identity. Here are another 9 of the 22 most common examples of some of the most useful mineral habits. Note that "habit" also has a meaning for rocks.



### Granular Habit

If crystals are not well formed, what might otherwise be called an equant habit is instead called granular. These are [spessartine garnet](#) grains in sandy matrix.



### Massive Habit

The quartz in this [gneiss](#) boulder has a massive habit, with no individual grains or crystals visible. Caution: rocks may also be described as having a massive habit, too. If you can, use a more appropriate term like equant, granular or blocky.



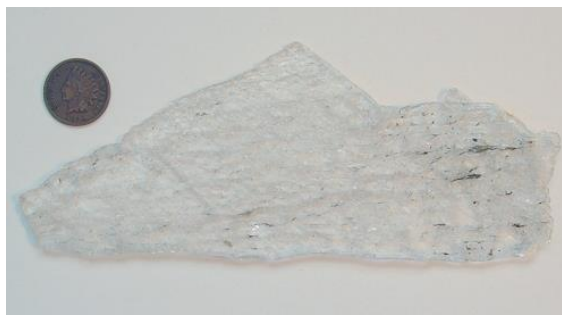
### Lamellar Habit

Lamellae are leaves in scientific Latin, and a lamellar habit is one of thin layers. This [gypsum](#) chunk can readily be pried apart into crystal sheets.



### **Micaceous Habit**

Minerals that split into extremely thin sheets have a micaceous habit. [Mica](#) is the prime example. This [chrysotile](#) specimen from an asbestos mine also has it.



### **Platy Habit**

A platy habit might be better described as lamellar or tabular in some instances, but this thin sheet of gypsum can be called nothing else.



### **Prismatic Habit**

Prism-shaped minerals are common in granites. [Tourmaline](#)'s nine-faced prisms are distinctive and diagnostic. Very long prisms are called acicular or fibrous.



### **Radiating Habit**

This "[pyrite](#) dollar" grew from a central point, squeezed flat between shale layers. The radiating habit can have crystals of any form, from blocky to fibrous.



### **Rhombohedral Habit**

Rhombohedrons are bent cubes in which no corner is straight; that is, each face of this [calcite](#) grain is a rhombus, and there are no right angles.



### **Rosette Habit**

Rosettes are groups of tabular or bladed crystals arranged around a central point. These [barite](#) rosettes are composed of tabular crystals.

Source: <http://geology.about.com/od/minerals/ss/mineral-habits.htm#showall>



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