

Mohs Scale of Mineral Hardness

Devised by the German mineralogist Frederick Mohs in 1812, hardness is one of the most important tests for identifying mineral specimens. This test compares the resistance of a mineral to being scratched by ten reference minerals known as the Mohs Hardness Scale (see Table below.)

MOHS HARDNESS SCALE

<u>Mineral</u>	<u>Hardness</u>	<u>Hardness of some common objects</u>
Talc	1	
Gypsum	2	
	2.5	Human fingernail
Calcite	3	
	3.5	Copper penny
Fluorite	4	
Apatite	5	
	5–6	Glass and pocketknife blade
Orthoclase	6	
Quartz	7	
Topaz	8	
Corundum	9	
Diamond	10	