

# Mineral Uses and Formation

## Mineral Uses

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### SUMMARY

With such a variety of minerals it is no surprise that we use them in our everyday lives. From copper in our wires to apatite in our teeth, it is impossible to live without them.

- A mineral deposit is a location that contains a large amount of a type of mineral.
- Once mined from a deposit, minerals have many industrial and non-industrial uses.
- Industrial uses include:
  - Metals
  - Quartz and feldspar in glass
  - Fluorite and calcite in toothpaste
  - Silver for photographic film
  - Mica and talc for paint
- Non-industrial uses of minerals are mostly found in the arts.
  - You have a birthstone that represents the month you were born in.
  - Many gemstones are used in jewelry. A gemstone is a hard, glassy mineral usually bright in color but is rough and irregularly shaped.
    - Before gemstones can be used, they must be cut and polished.
    - Corundum and diamond are used to cut gemstones, as they are harder than most gemstones.
    - Once the gemstone is cut and polished, it is called a gem.
  - Metals such as gold and silver are also used in jewelry making and decorative arts.
  - Both gold and silver are usually combined with copper to increase their hardness. This is done to prevent the metals from being scratched.