

natural graphite

A mineral found in nature. It consists of *graphitic carbon* regardless of its crystalline perfection.

Notes:

Some natural graphites, often in the form of large flakes, show very high crystalline perfection. Occasionally, they occur as single crystals of *graphite*. The use of the term natural graphite as a synonym for the term ‘graphite single crystal’ is incorrect and should be avoided. Varieties of natural graphite with lower structural perfection are classified as ‘microcrystalline natural graphite’. Commercial natural graphite is often contaminated with other minerals, e.g. silicates, and may contain *rhombohedral graphite* due to intensive milling.

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