

Diff. - Characterized by extreme softness, soapy feel; common foliated structure; pearly luster; it is flexible but inelastic. Yields water only on intense ignition.

Obs. - Talc or steatite is a very common mineral of secondary origin, and in the form of steatite constitutes extensive beds in some regions. It is often associated with serpentine, talcose or chloritic schist, and dolomite, and frequently contains crystals of dolomite, breunnerite, also asbestos, actinolite, tourmaline, magnetite. It has been formed by the alteration of non-aluminous magnesian silicates, like chrysolite, hypersthene, pyroxene, amphibole, etc. It is very common in pseudomorphs; see above.

Only a few of the most important localities for the occurrence of talc are given. Apple-green talc occurs at Mt. Greiner in the Zillertal, Austrian Tyrol; in Switzerland at St. Gotthard in Ticino and at Fiesch, etc., in Valais. Steatite comes from Göpfersgrün near Wunsiedel, Bavaria. From near Lizard Head in Cornwall with serpentine; from the Shetland Islands. In the Transvaal in the Barberton district. Steatite occurs in large amounts in India and China.

In the United States at various points in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. From Smithfield, Providence Co., Rhode Island; in New York at Edwards a fine fibrous talc (agalite); and elsewhere in St. Lawrence Co.; the so-called rensselaerite is common in northern New York. In Pennsylvania in Chester, Delaware, and Lancaster counties. In Maryland at Cooptown, Harford Co., with green, blue, and rose colors. Steatite occurs in Cherokee Co., North Carolina. In Canada talc and steatite are found in Brome Co., and elsewhere in Quebec and in Hastings Co., etc., in Ontario.

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