



2. HALIDES { LES HALOGÉNURES, الهاليدات }

The halides class brings together **130 species**. **Chlorides** and **fluorides** are the **most abundant**. They are vitreous, colorless or faintly colored (at the exception of fluorite). Their hardness is low. Chlorides are generally soluble in water. They are formed by evaporation of seawater at periods varied geological times, particularly in the Triassic. Certain bromides, chlorides and iodides are found in the oxidation zones of metal deposits.

2.1. FLUORITE

(CaF₂)

Cubic

Etymology: from Latin flus: to flow (substance helping to melt metals).

Crystals in cubes (100), with sometimes poorly developed truncations of the vertices or edges. More rarely, crystals in octahedrons. Often in masses cleavable. Perfect cleavage, allowing octahedrons to be obtained.

H = 3.2 / D = 4. Transparent to translucent. Glassy shine. Color varies (sometimes in the same crystal) often bright: purple, blue, yellow, pink, white, colorless.



Deposits: In hydrothermal deposits, alone or associated with quartz and barite, as gangue of Pb, Zn, Ag, Mn ores. Pegmatite veins with Cassiterite, Lepidolite, Topaz, Tourmaline, Apatite...

Use: Fluorine ore; fondant; ceramic; optical.

2.2. HALITE (rock salt)

NaCl)

Cubic

Most often in cubes. Cleavable, crystalline masses. Perfect cleavages.

D = 2.2 / H = 2. Transparent to translucent. Glassy shine. Colorless, white, gray, sometimes tinted by inclusions in blue, red. Very soluble in water. Salty flavor.

Deposits: In sedimentary terrains, generally clayey, in irregular layers, or in domes (diapirs). Formed by evaporation, halite is associated with Gypsum, Anhydrite, Sylvite.



Use: Food, agricultural, industrial uses.



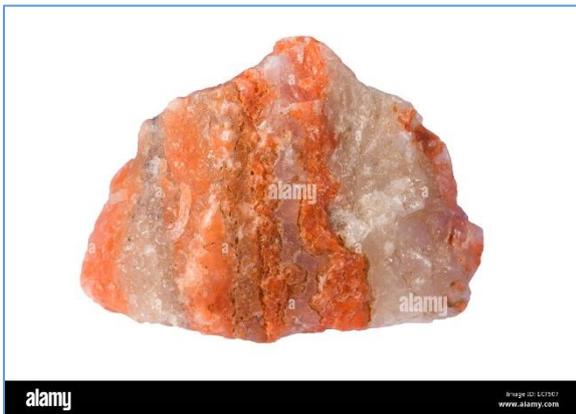
2.3. SYLVITE

(KCl)

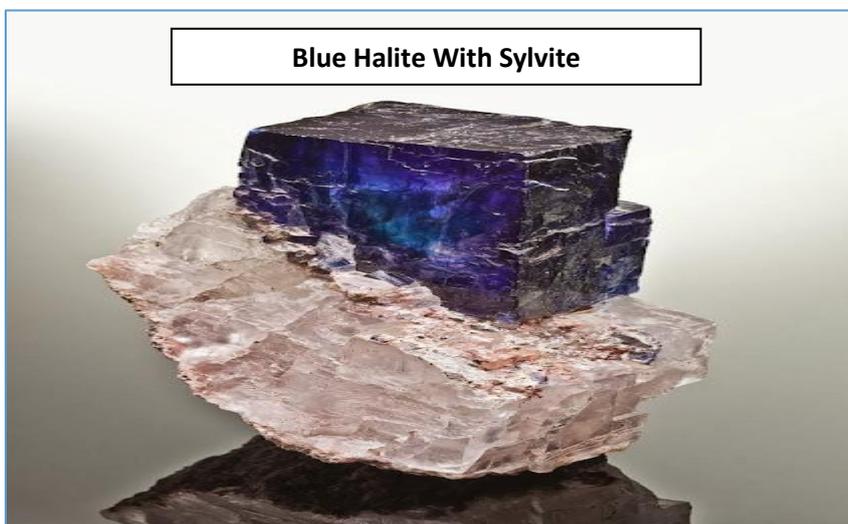
Cubic

Cubic crystals and compact grained masses. $D = 2 / H = 2$. Break unequal, perfect cubic cleavage.

Color: colorless, reddish, red-yellowish, bluish. Glassy shine. Transparent. Colorless dust. Bitter taste.



Blue Halite With Sylvite





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