

Celestite on Sulfur [SrSO₄]

Sulfur, said to be the ninth most abundant mineral in the universe, is unique because crystals may exhibit as many as 56 different habits. Well-crystallized sulfur is usually formed as a sublimate from volcanic gases and is found encrusted on volcanic vents and fumaroles. As a sublimate, sulfur is one of the few minerals that crystallizes not from a liquid, but from a gas. Celestine, a strontium sulfate, is known to co-exist with sulfur due to their chemical similarities. Although celestine can form in sediments as massive nodules, some specimens, like this one, form in hydrothermal deposits where euhedral crystals were given space to grow. PK11



Celestite PK11



Celestite BN24



Celestite M24

Chrysanthemum Stone

This ornamental stone derives its name from the chrysanthemum-like flower pattern that forms in contrast to its dark matrix. The composition of the chrysanthemum stone is variable depending on the locality from where it is found. Specimens from the Hunan Province in China consist of celestine (a strontium variety of gypsum) in a dark schist matrix. Other specimens with similar patterns may consist of mixtures of calcite, chalcedony and/or dolomite, all dependent on the minerals available in each locality. The chrysanthemum pattern, although random and not indicative of any specific crystal form. OR42



Chrysanthemum OR42