

Sphalerite [ZnS]

Sphalerite is the most common zinc mineral within the sulfide group, occurring in hydrothermal vein deposits, contact metamorphic zones, and high-temperature replacement deposits. Most specimens of sphalerite are opaque to translucent, exhibiting a brownish to light yellow color. Sphalerite can be uniquely identified by examining its powdered form (streak) when rubbed on a porcelain streak plate. Due to its sulfide components, the streak will be light yellowish-brown and smell strongly of rotten eggs. ^{G1}



Sphalerite with Fluorite ^{G1}



Sphalerite ^{PK 18}