

Gypsum [CaSO₄·2H₂O]

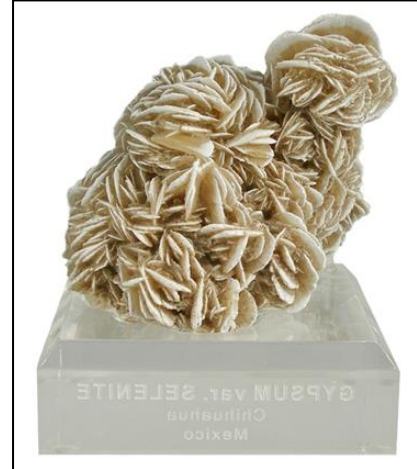
Gypsum is very familiar to those living in the Grand Rapids area. Known for its relatively soft nature and diverse array of color—white, yellow, brown and Grand Rapids-red. Gypsum has been used economically in the production of plaster and drywall. Grand Rapids had its very own mine that produced thousands of pounds of red gypsum, but it became obsolete when the air-pollution controlling technologies installed in coal-burning facilities provided an alternative source to gypsum. The specimen in the top left is an exceptional sample of Gypsum from Canada, which shows two modes of growth: a rounded, gypsum rosette center, followed by a subsequent growth of transparent, elongated, prismatic crystals. Samples such as these are rarely found intact.



Gypsum P16



Gypsum var. Selenite OR31



Gypsum var. Selenite B59



Gypsum var. Selenite B65



Selenite P6