

## Obsidian – Volcanic Glass

Obsidian is an extrusive, igneous rock that forms when silica-rich molten rock material cools so rapidly that the atoms are unable to arrange themselves into a crystalline structure. The result is an opaque, volcanic glass with a smooth uniform texture that breaks conchoidally when fractured. Conchoidal fracturing was used by ancient civilizations to produce stone tools with very sharp edges, such as knives, arrow heads, spear points and many other weapons and tools. B12



**Obsidian** B12



**Okenite and Gyrolite** OR41

## Okenite and Gyrolite $[\text{Ca}_3[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{15}] \cdot 6(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$

Most commonly found as small white “cotton ball” formations within basalt geodes, Okenite is a silicate mineral that is usually associated with Gyrolite, a brown to yellow silicate. Most specimens are incased by a surrounding matrix of either basalt or limestone, which protects it from degradation in nature. Okenite is an extremely fragile mineral due to its hair-like, acicular crystals, and collectors are advised to keep specimens in environmentally stable conditions. OR41