

Hemimorphite $[\text{Zn}_4\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7(\text{OH})_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})]$

Hemimorphite is a zinc silicate typically found in veins, beds, and in stratified calcareous rocks. Although many specimens are white or colorless and exhibit transparent, orthorhombic crystals, blue and red variations exist. This silicate was named hemimorphite because of its hemimorphic crystal habit. This habit, which occurs in only a few minerals, describes crystals that are terminated by dissimilar faces on two unlike axes. Such crystal habits can only be seen in specimens that exhibit acicular or needlelike crystals, where terminated ends are visible. B26



Hemimorphite B26



Hemimorphite R25

When it is heated it becomes pyroelectric (crystals having natural electricity when polarized), and when pressure is applied it becomes piezoelectric (electricity accumulating in certain solid materials due to the application of mechanical stress). Hemimorphite is a secondary mineral formed from the alteration of zinc deposits.