

Cryolite

Mineral Reference Profile • Halides

Chemical / compositional reference

Na■AlF■

Mohs hardness

2.5–3

Physical properties

Often relatively soft with good cleavage and may be soluble or sensitive to humidity.

Geological occurrence

Typically associated with evaporite basins, saline lakes, volcanic gases or hydrothermal environments.

Economic, technological and cultural relevance

Chemical feedstocks, fertilizers, metallurgy, food and de-icing applications, optics and specialized industrial processes.

Museum learning value

In the museum context, Cryolite is used to connect observation with mineral identification, geological formation, material science, responsible resource use and the relationship between natural resources and society. Specimen-specific analytical data should always be read from the verified museum catalogue or laboratory record.