

Mohs Hardness Scale

Test for hardness by using the point of something to scratch a clean surface of your specimen. Rub with a finger afterwards to make sure that an etch was actually made. Remember, that a harder rock will always scratch a softer one, so it should always be possible to order your samples.

Fingernail hardness=2.5 (it is slightly harder than gypsum so it can scratch gypsum)

penny hardness=3 (if your fingernail won't scratch something but a penny will, then it is at least as hard as calcite)

steel blade hardness=5.5 (aprox)

hardness	mineral	test	Guess where your samples fit
1	talc		
2	gypsum	fingernail	
3	calcite	penny	
4	fluorite		
5	apatite	steel blade	
6	orthoclase (feldspar)		
7	quartz		
8	topaz		
9	corundum		
10	diamond		