



Rocks

Anthracite

Type:

Metamorphic; regional.

Texture/Appearance:

Homogeneous, shiny, hard, scaly and compact. Subconchoidal fractures; glassy looking.

Color:

Dark brown to black, lustrous.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

92%–98% fixed carbon with small amounts of quartz, clay minerals, sulfides, etc. as impurities.

Occurrence/Use:

Coal of the highest metamorphic grade formed originally as bituminous coal, and later altered to more carbon-rich anthracite. Found in basin areas of tectonic deformation interbedded with clays (shale/slate) and sandstones (quartzites). Restricted to Paleozoic rocks, especially the Carboniferous of North America and Europe. Used primarily as a domestic fuel because of its smokeless quality and relatively high energy output.