

Slate



Black Slate
Eastern United States



Red Slate
Granville, Washington Co., New York



Slate

[Lavender, Bright Red, Dk. Greenish-Gray, Lt. Gray]



Small Slate Board

[See info below *1]

Rock Classification:

Metamorphic

Description:

Slate is a metamorphic rock derived from metamorphic Shale. Slate has a dull appearance and occurs in a number of colors including mostly black, but also gray, green, purple and red.

Relation to Mining:

Slate is often mined in open pit quarries. Methods vary depending on variations in the physical properties of the deposit itself, such as density, fracturing/bedding planes and depth. The process is relatively simple: locate or create breaks in the stone, remove the stone using heavy machinery, then process the material by splitting along the bedding planes.

Uses:

Slate's foliation allows it to be broken into sheets of any desired thickness. Therefore, for centuries it has been used for roofing, in some areas it is still used for roofs.

It also makes good paving stones around homes, buildings and gardens.

That same feature of splitting into layers makes it suitable for pool table tops, flooring material, gravestones and memorial tablets.

[*1 see above photo] At one time slate was used for chalkboards, not only on the walls of schools, but each student had a small chalkboard. The students would write a math problem on the board and then they would write their answer. Slate chalkboards can still be purchased today, mostly for decoration.

Above information and photos may have come from Geology.com, Mineral Education Coalition.org, Wikipedia or My Samples.