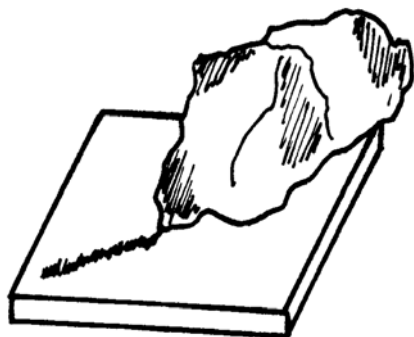


STREAK



Another physical property that mineralogists use to identify a mineral is *streak*. Streak is the color of a mineral when it is crushed to a powder. Most minerals are the same color in the hand sample as they are when they are crushed. However, there are a few minerals that are a different color when they are powdered.

The easiest way to crush a mineral into a powder is to do a *streak test*. Try this yourself. Take a mineral and rub it against a piece of unglazed porcelain. The back side of a bathroom or kitchen tile is perfect. Officially this is known as a *streak plate*. Look at the color of the line on the streak plate.

This is the mineral's streak.

Mineral Name	Streak
Azurite	
Malachite	
Hematite	
Pyrite	
Fluorite	
Calcite	
Graphite	
Feldspar	
Quartz	
Corundum	
Gypsum	
Sulfur	
Galena	

If you have the following minerals, do a streak test on each and record the result in the table above. If you do not have a specimen, or if your specimen is too good to damage by doing a streak test, look the answer up in a good mineral book. (It is always best to do your physical tests on pieces of a mineral that are not collector specimens. Any test you do (specific gravity, hardness, streak) will damage the specimen.

Notice that minerals that are harder than the porcelain will not leave a streak. A streak plate has a hardness around 7. You may see a colorless line, but that is where the mineral scratched into the streak plate!