

TALC.

Talc is a very soft mineral consisting of acid metasilicate of magnesium ($H_2Mg_3Si_4O_{12}$ or otherwise expressed, $H_2O \cdot 3MgO \cdot 4SiO_2$). In colour it varies from white to greyish green, usually being pale apple green. This mineral is characterized by its softness and unctuousness. It occurs generally in foliated masses with a pearly lustre, sometimes granular or fibrous.

The massive granular or crypto-crystalline variety is known as *steatite*, while the fibrous variety is called *agalite*.

Soapstone is a rock consisting very largely of talc and gets its name from its soapy feeling. It is also called *potstone*.

In addition to the foregoing, the following names are applied to talc, by the trade: *asbestine*, *French chalk*, *mineral pulp*, *talclay*, and *verdolite*.

USES.

The particular properties of talc which makes it useful in the industries are its softness, slipperiness, refractoriness, non-conductivity of heat and electricity, and its resistance to the action of most chemicals.

The principal use of talc in this country is in the making of paper. For this purpose it should be very finely ground, free from grit, and as nearly white as possible for the better grades of book paper. It is used as a filler to be added to the pulp to produce a white, opaque paper and also in the coating of paper. *Agalite*, on account of its fibrous nature, is the variety most desired by the paper trade because of its greater "retention" and the somewhat stronger paper resulting from its use.

Powdered talc is used in large quantities in the manufacture of talcum powder and other toilet preparations, and also as a filler or loader in the cheaper grades of toilet soap. For toilet powders a very pure grade is employed. It should be white and very free from grit. For soap the colour is not so important a matter, but freedom from grit is insisted upon.

For filling and dressing cotton cloth white, grit-free powdered talc is largely used. It is also used in the preparation of cloth for window blinds, and to a lesser extent for other textile purposes.