

Gypsum

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Gypsum Latest News

Recently, scientists are studying gypsum in the Salar de Pajonales which is found on both the earth and Mars.

About Gypsum

- It is a **sedimentary rock primarily** composed of **calcium sulfate dihydrate** ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) and **anhydrite** (CaSO_4).
- Gypsum is found in both **crystal and rock forms**.
- **Occurrence:** It commonly occurs in **extensive beds alongside evaporite minerals** like anhydrite and halite, especially in Permian and Triassic sedimentary formations.
- It is often found in **saline lakes and salt pans** and constitutes a significant part of cap rock on salt domes,
- It generally **results from the evaporation** of saline water and is one of the more common minerals in sedimentary conditions.

- Gypsum that occurs in nature is called **mineral gypsum**.
- In India, marine gypsum is recovered from salt pans during production of common salt in coastal regions, **particularly in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.

Applications of Gypsum

- **Agricultural use:** It works as an agent to remove **Saline/Alkaline ingredients in the soil**. It acts more or less like manure.
- **Industrial use:** It is used in manufacturing lime and in the cement industry and also used in manufacturing Plaster of Paris.

Source: TH

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