**Gypsum** is a soft [sulfate mineral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulfate_mineral) composed of [calcium sulfate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calcium_sulfate) [dihydrate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrate), with the [chemical formula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_formula) CaSO4·2H2O.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gypsum#cite_note-Cornelis-3) It is widely mined and is used as a [fertilizer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertilizer) and as the main constituent in many forms of [plaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaster), [blackboard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackboard)/[sidewalk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sidewalk_chalk) chalk, and [drywall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drywall). A [massive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_geology#M) fine-grained white or lightly tinted variety of gypsum, called [alabaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabaster), has been used for [sculpture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sculpture) by many cultures including [Ancient Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egypt), [Mesopotamia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia), [Ancient Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome), the [Byzantine Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), and the [Nottingham alabasters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_alabaster) of [Medieval England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_England). Gypsum also crystallizes as translucent crystals of [selenite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selenite_(mineral)). It also forms as an [evaporite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaporite) mineral and as a [hydration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mineral_hydration) product of [anhydrite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anhydrite).

The [Mohs scale of mineral hardness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohs_scale_of_mineral_hardness) defines hardness value 2 as gypsum based on [scratch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scratch_hardness) [hardness comparison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardness_comparison).



/img/Gypsum\_-\_Lubin\_Poland.jpg