



Malachite

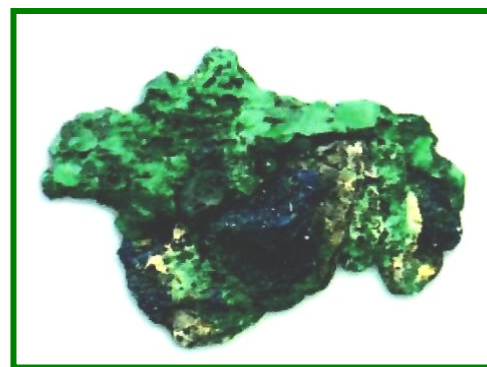


Malachite is an intense green colored, copper carbonate mineral. Instead of being a solid color, it is often banded in shades of green. While it can form tabular and twinned crystals, it is more often seen as botryoidal masses, or stalactitic, with a fibrous banded structure of crusts. Malachite can commonly be found with azurite. It has a hardness of 3.5-4 soft enough to carve readily, yet still taking a polish. The stone is used for decoration, ornamentation, and jewelry. It can also be crushed and made into a green pigment. It was originally worn to ward off evil spirits.

Malachite comes from many locations, including Russia, Africa, Australia, Brazil, and Arizona. It has also been called Atlas ore and Green Copper.



Fibrous malachite



Malachite with azurite

The chemical formula is: $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachite>

Pellant, Chris. Rocks and Minerals: New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1992.

Busbey, Arthur Bresnahan. Rocks & fossils. Alexandria, V: Time Life 1996.