

Flow-Banded Rhyolite

Run-of-Mine, Waste Byproduct of the Golden Queen Mining Co.
Gold & Silver Mining Project at Soledad Mountain, Mojave, CA

Dealer: T-D-ROCKS



Our Flow-Banded Rhyolite is very rare and uniquely colored and patterned.

Rhyolite is a felsic, extrusive, igneous rock most commonly possessing a very bland coloring of light gray to white, muddy brown, or a pale green. This type of Rhyolite is quite common in the Southwest. At Soledad Mountain, multiple volcanic eruptions produced widespread sheet flows and pyroclastics of quartz latite followed by restricted centers of rhyolitic flows (lava domes) and rhyolite porphyry intrusive flows horizontally and at all angles. These events, coupled with rare combinations of minerals (predominantly silica, quartz, feldspar, sanidine, plagioclase, and pyrite), resulted in the creation of our unique, vibrantly-colored, flow-banded rhyolite. There are very few sources in the world demonstrating this caliber of character and beauty and no two specimens look alike.

Rhyolite from Soledad Mountain is special in two ways:

The beautiful colors are a result of trace minerals, primarily iron oxide.

The folding and brecciation are formed by the geologic forces that bend and sometimes fracture (brecciate) the original rock. This tremendous energy that folds, crushes, and shears the rock, causes the shifting of the even banding, creating a unique piece of beauty in every individual rock. Each specimen is so different that it is truly a work of art. Of the hundreds of billions of tons of rock forming Soledad Mountain, only a very, tiny fraction will have these spectacular features.

This rock is ore from an active mine and contains Gold & Silver.

Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that this rock contains a gold nugget as the limited, coarse gold at Soledad Mountain was mined out many decades ago. The remaining gold and silver consists of microscopic-sized flakes that are liberated and recovered by high-volume crushing and leaching processes utilizing the Merrill-Crowe method. Our Rhyolite material is considered run-of-mine waste as it did not meet the economic cut-off grade for further processing. There is gold and silver there, just check any visible quartz veins. With luck, you may see a few, tiny gold or silver flakes.