



SELENITE

(Satin Spar)

First draft

(08.04.06)

- Origin** It forms in sedimentary environments from highly saline water. The name selenite comes from the Greek for moon - due to pieces having a moonlike / pearly lustre.
- Composition** Hydrated calcium sulphate $\text{Ca SO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ A type of gypsum
- Structure** Monoclinic Mohs scale 2 - so it needs careful handling.
- Colour** Colourless crystal, forms varying from translucent to transparent. Some pieces show clear fibrous crystals.
- Sources** Crystals sources its Selenite from Morocco, Mexico (especially Fishtail selenite) and Brazil. In Morocco we buy from a mute mineral specialist who employs several mute people in his workshops. His wife is in charge of communication and is brilliant at sign language. Paul was amazed to see the standard of work being produced in challenging circumstances. Selenite 'castles' result from Paul asking if the lamp holders could have their hole left filled! It works, doesn't it? Selenite spheres often have exceptional and inspiring crosses of inner light.

Ros Mason April 2006

Crystals (UK) Ltd T/A Crystals Reg. No. 5056864