



A HARDER THING SCRATCHES A SOFTER THING, NEVER THE OTHER WAY ROUND

Great Lakes Mohs Hardness Chart

Mohs hardness for all 48 stones and fossils, sorted by what scratches them. **Carry a steel nail and a chip of glass** and you can sort a whole bucket.



2 TO 3.5 · A STEEL NAIL SCRATCHES IT EASILY



3 TO 4 · A KNIFE SCRATCHES IT, IT WILL NOT SCRATCH GLASS



5 TO 6 · ABOUT AS HARD AS GLASS



5.5 TO 7 · SCRATCHES GLASS



AGATE OR BEACH GLASS?
agate scratches the glass · glass cannot scratch the agate

AGATE OR CHERT?
both are 7, neither wins · agate is glassy and banded, chert is waxy and dull

IS IT A PETOSKEY?
a knife carves a petoskey · if the knife slides off, it is not one

● bedrock ● fossil ● uncommon ● rare ● ultra ● grail

rocks are mixtures, so most read as a range · fossils given for calcite preservation, a chert-replaced one jumps to 7