

## silica mineral

 Encyclopædia Britannica

## Individual silica minerals &gt; Coesite and stishovite

Coesite and stishovite are rare dense forms of silica. They are observed in nature only where quartz-bearing rocks have been severely shocked by a large meteorite impact, such as Meteor Crater in Arizona, U.S. Coesite is found in ultrahigh-pressure metamorphic rocks such as in Dora Maira, Italy, and the Dabie Mountains, China. Coesite is made up of tetrahedrons arranged like those in feldspars. Stishovite is the densest form of silica and consists of silicon that is octahedrally coordinated with oxygen. Both coesite and stishovite have been synthesized and found to be stable only at high pressures.

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