

Indian Paint Stone



Indian paint stone is also known as Death Valley picture rock and Navajo blanket stone. The source for this specimen was Death Valley California in an area that is now a national park and off limits to collection. This material came from an old collection, collection date unknown.

Indian paint stone might best be classified as a jasper, but is very soft as it is not well silicified. The material is a sedimentary rock with the color patterns most likely from different colors of iron and or manganese oxides. The Mohs hardness ranges between 2 and 3, or between gypsum and calcite.

Lapidary treatment:

When slabbing and trimming this material, be ready for a lot of mud. Work mechanically on very fine grits (like 360 or 600 for shaping) to shape the stone and flat lap by hand with loose grit on glass. A matte finish is the best this material will achieve.

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