

Fluorite Tumbling Instructions

Supplies Needed:

- Rotary rock tumbler (small barrel)
- Vibratory tumbler (for final dry polishing)
- Fluorite stones (Mohs hardness ~4)
- Non-abrasive ceramic filler media
- Water
- Grits and Polish:
 - - Coarse: 60/90 Silicon Carbide
 - - Medium: 120/200 Silicon Carbide
 - - Fine: 500 Aluminum Oxide
 - - Extra-Fine: 1000 Aluminum Oxide
 - - Polish: Aluminum Oxide (dry)
- Buckets, soft brushes, paper towels (for cleaning)

Quick Reference Chart:

Step	Grit/Polish	Tumbler Type	Amount	Duration
1	60/90 Silicon Carbide	Rotary (wet)	~1 tbsp per lb rock	3 days
2	120/200 SiC	Rotary (wet)	~1 tbsp per lb rock	3 days
3	500 Aluminum Oxide	Rotary (wet)	~1 tbsp per lb rock	4 days
4	1000 AO	Rotary (wet)	~1 tbsp per lb rock	2 days
5	Micro Alumina Polish	Vibratory (dry)	~1 tbsp per lb rock	3 days

Helpful Tips:

- Fluorite has a Mohs hardness of about 4, softer than quartz or agate - tumble gently!
- Check daily during rotary steps to avoid over-rounding.
- Keep water level even with tops of stones and media during (wet) rotary stages.
- Always use non-abrasive ceramic filler media to protect your fluorite.

Step-by-Step Fluorite Tumbling Instructions

Step 1: Coarse Grind (60/90 Silicon Carbide, 3 days)

- Add approximately 1 tbsp per pound of rock of 60/90 Silicon Carbide grit.
- Close barrel, start rotary tumbler.
- Check daily; rinse thoroughly after 3 days.

Step 2: Medium Grind (120/200 Silicon Carbide, 3 days)

- Reload barrel with stones/media; fill 2/3 - 3/4 full (ceramic media is added to bring the fill level back up)
- Add water level with rocks/media.
- Add approximately 1 tbsp per pound of rock of 120/200 Silicon Carbide.
- Check daily; rinse thoroughly after 3 days.

Step 3: Fine Grind (500 Aluminum Oxide, 4 days)

- Reload stones/media; fill 2/3 - 3/4 full.
- Add water level with rocks/media.
- Add approximately 1 tbsp per pound of rock of 500 Aluminum Oxide.
- Check daily; rinse thoroughly after 4 days.

Step 4: Extra-Fine Grind (1000 Aluminum Oxide, 2 days)

- Reload stones/media; fill 2/3 - 3/4 full.
- Add water level with rocks/media.
- Add approximately 1 tbsp per pound of rock of 1000 Aluminum Oxide.
- Run for 2 days; rinse thoroughly.

Step 5: Dry Polish (Aluminum Oxide, Vibratory, 3 days)

- Completely dry stones and ceramic media.
- Place dry stones/media into vibratory tumbler (2/3 - 3/4 full).
- Add approximately 1 tbsp per pound of rock Aluminum Oxide polish (no water).
- Run vibratory tumbler for 3 days straight.

Final Cleanup

- Brush off residual polish from stones.
- Rinse briefly with water, dry thoroughly.
- If polishing and grit is stuck in the cracks and fissures use an ultrasonic cleaner with warm water to clean.