

# How to Crack a Geode

The best way to open a geode is with a soil pipe cutter (a.k.a “geode cracker”). To see what one looks like visit <http://www.firstcrackgeodes.com/keokukgeodes.html> A picture is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way down on the page. If you don't have access to one, a hammer and chisel is the next best way.

This is the most popular way to open a geode. The tools you'll need are available around the house or in a toolbox. **Always wear safety glasses when trying to crack open a geode.** You'll need a nice hammer and a flat-faced chisel, not the pointed type. You want to make a crack around the geode, not poke a hole. To successfully open a geode into two halves, you must score the geode all the way around the circumference of the geode with the chisel. This will give you a chisel line. You'll follow this chisel line completely around the geode until it starts to crack. This may take several laps around the chisel line to start. Follow the crack around the geode with gently strikes until it opens. This method can be used on all sizes of geodes, but how hard you strike the geode with the hammer and chisel depends on the size and how hollow the geode is. If you strike it too hard you'll destroy the small ones. If you strike the big ones too softly, it will never open. The more you practice, the better you'll get at cracking a geode in half. Good luck and happy rock hunting.