

## So, is it flocculent or flocculant?

There is a continuous argument between mineral processing engineers as to the spelling – flocculant or flocculent.

Now after losing numerous bets and lots of research, we support the following opinion.

(a) From the ‘Your Dictionary.com’” (available at <http://www.yourdictionary.com>)

### **Flocculant Definition:**

**floc·cu·lant** (fläk'γə lənt)

*noun:* a substance causing flocculation, as a chemical used in treating waste water

### **Flocculant Usage Examples:**

*Noun used with modifier*

polyamine: Both substances were present as contaminants in polyamine flocculants and could theoretically arise in drinking water.

### **Flocculent Definition:**

**floc·cu·lent** (fläk'γə lənt)

*adjective*

1. like wool or tufts of wool; fluffy
2. containing or consisting of small woolly masses
3. covered with a wool-like substance, as some insects

Etymology: < L *floccus* (see floccus) + -ulent

### **Flocculent Usage Examples:**

*Modifies a noun*

- smatchets: However, recent confrontations with these lurdane, flocculent, smatchets causes me malnoia.
- precipitate: This can include the presence of haemolysis ( especially if the blood is permanganate coloured),a flocculent precipitate or clotting.

- (b) This view supported by the Merriam-website online dictionary (available at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>)

**Flocculant:**

Pronunciation: \ˈflä-kyə-,lät\

Function: *verb*

Inflected Form(s): **floc·cu·lat·ed**; **floc·cu·lat·ing**

Date: 1877

*transitive verb* :

to cause to aggregate into a **flocculent** mass <*flocculate* clay particles> *intransitive verb* : to become **flocculent**

— **floc·cu·lant** \-lənt\ *noun*

— **floc·cu·la·tion** \,flä-kyə-'lä-shən\ *noun*

— **floc·cu·la·tor** \ˈflä-kyə-,lä-tər\ *noun*

**Flocculent:**

Pronunciation: \ˈflä-kyə-lənt\

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Latin *floccus* + English *-ulent*

Date: 1800

**1** : resembling wool especially in loose fluffy organization

**2** : containing, consisting of, or occurring in the form of loosely aggregated particles or soft flakes <a *flocculent* precipitate>

- (c) The final support comes from the Oxford dictionary (available online at <http://www.askoxford.com>)

**Flocculent:**

/ˈflɒkjʊlənt/

- **adjective 1** having or resembling tufts of wool. **2** having a loosely clumped texture.

So MIP's position is ..... Look how we spell it!!