SOFTWARE & TECH

Where To Get Rock Smash In Soul Silver

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Introduction: The Essential Move for Your Johto Adventure

In the world of **Pokémon Soul Silver**, exploring every nook and cranny of the Johto region requires more than just a well-trained team. You will need a variety of Hidden Machines (HMs) to overcome obstacles, unlock new areas, and discover hidden treasures. Among these, **Rock Smash** is one of the most frequently used and versatile moves. Whether you are trying to clear a path to a new town, find rare items, or challenge wild Pokémon, knowing **where to get Rock Smash in Soul Silver**is crucial for any trainer. This article will guide you through the exact location, prerequisites, and tips for obtaining and using this essential HM effectively.

Many novice trainers find themselves stuck early in the game because they overlook this key move. Without it, you cannot access certain routes, caves, or even battle the iconic Sudowoodo blocking Route 36. So, let's dive into the details and ensure you are well-equipped to continue your journey through the Johto region.

The Exact Location: Where to Find HM Rock Smash

The answer to **where to get Rock Smash in Soul Silver** is straightforward, but it requires a small detour. You will find this HM in **Route 36**, which is a short stretch of grass and dirt connecting Route 35 and Route 37. However, you cannot simply walk up and grab it. The HM is located just south of the entrance to the National Park, but it is guarded by a strange, tree-like Pokémon.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Reach Goldenrod City: First, you need to have progressed through the main story until you reach Goldenrod City, the bustling metropolis of Johto. You should have the ability to travel north via Route 35.
2. Go to Route 35: From Goldenrod City, head west to Route 35. This route connects to the National Park entrance.
3. Enter Route 36: After passing through the National Park (or taking the road alongside it), you will emerge on Route 36. Immediately to your left (south), you will see a small patch of grass and a mysterious, trembling tree.
4. Interact with the tree: This trembling tree is actually a wild Sudowoodo. It will block your path. When you approach it, the game will prompt you to use the Squirtbottle (obtained from the Flower Shop in Goldenrod City) to make it reveal itself. After using the Squirtbottle, you will battle a level 20 Sudowoodo.
5. Defeat or catch Sudowoodo: Once you have overcome this rocky Pokémon, the path is clear. Walk up to the item ball lying on the ground just beyond where Sudowoodo was standing.
6. Pick up the HM: The item ball contains HM Rock Smash. Congratulations, you have now answered the question of where to get Rock Smash in Soul Silver!

It is important to note that you can also obtain the Squirtbottle earlier by speaking to the woman in the Goldenrod City Flower Shop near the Pokémon Center. Without it, you cannot trigger the Sudowoodo battle, and the HM remains inaccessible.

Prerequisites for Using HM Rock Smash

Finding the HM is only half the battle. To actually use Rock Smash, you must meet certain conditions:

Gym Badge Requirement

You need the **Mineral Badge**from the Violet City Gym (Falkner's Flying-type Gym) to use Rock Smash outside of battle. While you can teach the move to a Pokémon at any time, you cannot smash rocks in the overworld until you have earned this badge. Fortunately, you likely have already received this badge early in the game, making Rock Smash usable as soon as you obtain it on Route 36.

Pokémon Compatibility

Not all Pokémon can learn Rock Smash. It is a Fighting-type move that can be learned by many, but not every, species. Common compatible Pokémon include Geodude, Graveler, Onix, Machop, and many others. If you have a Rock- or Ground-type Pokémon in your party, they are almost certain to be able to learn it. However, always check the move compatibility for your specific team. The HM is reusable, so you can teach and forget it as needed.

How to Use Rock Smash Effectively

Once you know **where to get Rock Smash in Soul Silver**and have taught it to a Pokémon, you can use it both in battle and on the field.

Overworld Usage

- Destroying breakable rocks: Small, cracked rocks appear on many routes and in caves. Use Rock Smash to shatter them, revealing items like Poké Balls, Potions, Escape Ropes, or even rare evolutionary stones.
- Clearing paths: Some areas are blocked by these rocks. Breaking them opens shortcuts or leads to hidden areas.
- Unlocking Hidden Grottoes (in later areas): In locations like the Ruins of Alph or the Cliff Cave, Rock Smash is essential for accessing deeper sections.

Battle Usage

Rock Smash is a Fighting-type physical move with a base power of 40 (in Generation IV). It has a 50% chance of lowering the target's Defense by one stage. While not the strongest Fighting move, it can be handy early in the game, especially against Normal-, Ice-, Rock-, Dark-, and Steel-type Pokémon. However, its main value lies in its field utility.

Benefits and Real-World Applications in Soul Silver

Knowing **where to get Rock Smash in Soul Silver**opens up many opportunities. Here are key areas where you will need it:

Route 36 and Beyond

Immediately after obtaining the HM, you can use it on the rocky walls surrounding Route 36. Smashing them reveals items like a Reaper Cloth or a Rare Candy (depending on the specific rock). More importantly, you can now proceed north to Route 37, which leads to Ecruteak City and deeper into the story.

Caves and Mines

- Dark Cave: This expansive cave near Blackthorn City contains many breakable rocks. Items like Max Repels and even a Moon Stone can be found behind them.
- Cliff Cave: Located on Route 47 (after the National Park), this area requires Rock Smash to navigate and find hidden items like the Sharp Beak.
- Ruins of Alf: The puzzle rooms and hidden chambers often have rocks to smash, leading to Unown forms

and rare items.

Item Farming

Some rocks can be smashed repeatedly, and they occasionally yield items like Heart Scales, which are used to teach old moves. The rocks on Routes 36, 45, and in the Cliff Cave are prime farming spots. Keep returning to them after a few days to collect more items.

Alternative Methods and Common Misconceptions

Some trainers believe they can get Rock Smash earlier or from a different location. Let's clarify:

- No other early HM: There is no alternative way to obtain Rock Smash earlier than Route 36. The HM is not available from any Poké Mart or NPC in Goldenrod City.
- Cannot skip Sudowoodo: You cannot use Cut or any other move to bypass the Sudowoodo. The Squirtbottle is mandatory. If you missed the Flower Shop, head back to Goldenrod and speak to the woman near the counter.
- Rock Smash is not a TM: It is an HM (Hidden Machine), meaning it can be used infinitely once taught. You cannot purchase it or find it as a TM.

Tips and Tricks for Maximizing Rock Smash

Now that you know **where to get Rock Smash in Soul Silver**, here are some professional tips:

- Assign it to a fodder Pokémon: Since Rock Smash has low battle power, it is best to keep it on a Pokémon that you do not plan to use for main battles. For example, catch a Geodude early in the game and use it as your designated "HM slave" for Rock Smash, Strength, and Rock Climb later.
- Use it immediately: As soon as you get the HM, teach it to a Pokémon and start smashing every cracked rock you see. Some rare items like the Everstone or even a Shiny Stone can appear.
- Combine with Dowsing Machine: After smashing a rock, use the Dowsing Machine (Pokégear app) to check for hidden items. Sometimes items are not directly revealed by the smash; they appear as hidden drops.
- Revisit locations: Many crackable rocks regenerate over time in Soul Silver. Check them daily or after each gym badge for fresh loot.
- Catch Sudowoodo: If you decide to catch the Sudowoodo instead of defeating it, you will have a Pokémon that can naturally learn Rock Smash as well. It can be a useful addition to your team for both field and battle moves.

Conclusion: Master Your Journey with Rock Smash

Finding **where to get Rock Smash in Soul Silver**is a milestone that marks your progress from the early game into the mid-game. This seemingly simple HM unlocks new routes, valuable items, and crucial progression points. Without it, you cannot challenge Sudowoodo, advance to Ecruteak City, or fully explore the caves of Johto. By following the steps outlined above – obtaining the Squirtbottle, defeating the Sudowoodo on Route 36, and picking up the HM – you will be well on your way to becoming a true Johto champion. Remember to use the move strategically both in and out of battle, and always keep a Pokémon with Rock Smash in your party when exploring. Now that you have the knowledge, go out there and smash every rock you see – you never know what treasures await beneath the surface.

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