

**Melting Point**

44.1°C

Boiling Point

280°C

Density1.8 g/cm³**Appearance**

Phosphorus occurs in more than one form. One of these is waxy and white, and another is a dark red powder.

Other Physical Properties

The waxy, white form of phosphorus glows in the dark.

Chemical Properties

Phosphorus is insoluble in water. The waxy, white form is very reactive and can explode in air (it burns at 35°C). It is also very poisonous. The powdered form is less reactive, although it burns in air. It is not very toxic.

Compounds

Calcium phosphate, a natural rock used to make phosphate fertilizer, is one compound of phosphorus.

Uses

Phosphorus is alloyed with bronze. It is also used in incendiary bombs and match heads.

Notes

Phosphorus compounds play an important role in the utilization of energy in living things.

**PHOSPHATE SMELTING FURNACE CIRCA 1940**

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MATCH HEADS ARE MADE FROM PHOSPHORUS COMPOUNDS, WHICH IGNITE WHEN RUBBED AGAINST A ROUGH SURFACE.

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