

**Melting Point**

63°C

Boiling Point

760°C

Density0.86 g/cm³**Appearance**

Potassium is usually covered with a layer of dull gray oxide. However, when it is scratched, a shiny silver color is revealed.

Other Physical Properties

Potassium is soft enough to be cut easily with a knife. It is not magnetic, but it is a good conductor of heat and electricity.

Chemical Properties

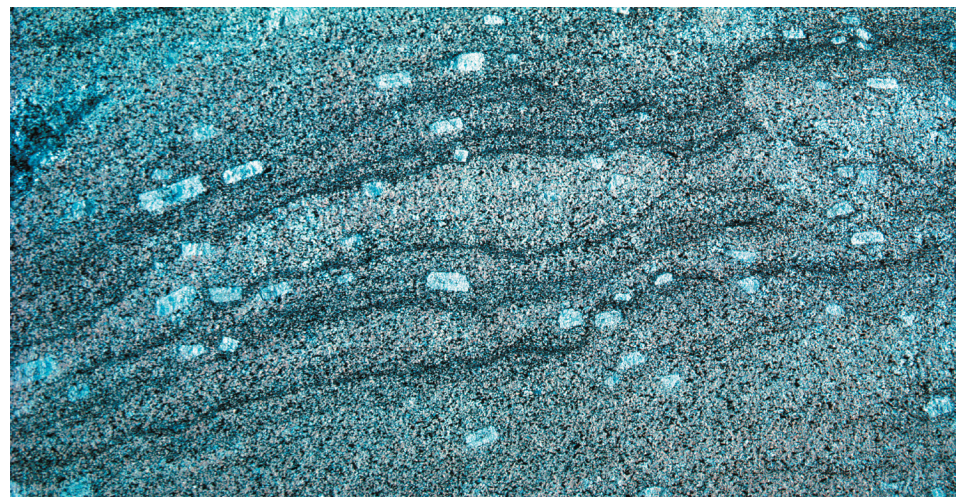
Potassium is very reactive. It even catches fire when put in water.

Compounds

Potassium forms white crystalline compounds.

Uses**Notes**

Potassium is extracted from potassium chloride. It is the seventh most abundant element in Earth's crust.



POTASSIUM FELDSPAR PHENOCRYSTS CAN BE SEEN AS LIGHT-COLORED SPECKS IN THIS PARTIALLY SOLIDIFIED MAGMA FROM YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.

PHOTO: U.S. Geological Survey