

**Melting Point**

98°C

Boiling Point

883°C

Density**Appearance**

Sodium is usually covered in a layer of dull gray oxide; however, when scratched, a shiny silver color is revealed.

Other Physical Properties

Sodium is soft enough to cut with a knife.

Chemical Properties

Sodium is very reactive. It reacts quickly with the oxygen in the air. It reacts very quickly with water, forming sodium hydroxide and releasing hydrogen.

Compounds

Compounds of sodium are white. They are very common—sodium chloride (table salt) is probably the best known.

Uses**Notes**

Sodium is the sixth most abundant element in Earth's crust.



▶ SODIUM IS STORED UNDER OIL TO PREVENT IT FROM REACTING WITH OXYGEN.

PHOTO: Image made by Wilco Oelen,
<http://www.oelen.net/science>