

Physical and Chemical Properties

All **substances** have properties that we can use to identify the substance. For example, we can identify people by their face, voice, height, fingerprints, DNA, etc. The more of these properties that we can identify, the better we know the person. In a similar way, **matter** has properties—and there are many of them. We can associate two basic types of properties with matter. These properties are called **physical properties** and **chemical properties**.

Physical properties:	Describe measurable characteristics of substances
Chemical properties:	Describe the way a substance behaves in a chemical reaction

Examples of physical properties are: color, odor, freezing point, boiling point, melting point, attraction or repulsion to magnets, thickness, darkness, resistance to motion, and density. There are many more examples. Note that measuring each of these properties will not change the basic nature of the substance.

Examples of chemical properties are: reacts with water, reacts with oxygen (flammability), and health hazard (toxicity). During a reaction, the basic nature of the substance will change and it can be evident by a color change, heat being given off, or gases being produced.

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