

Non-Scientists Guide to Chemicals

Chemical name	Other names(uses)	State	Symbol/Formula
Ethanol	Alcohol/methylated spirit	clear liquid	C ₂ H ₆ O
Sodium ethanoate	Sodium acetate	fine white powder	NaCOOH(C ₂ H ₃ O ₂ Na)
Ethanoic acid	Acetic acid (Vinegar)	clear liquid	C ₂ H ₄ O ₂
Hydrogen peroxide	(bleach)	clear liquid (fridge)	H ₂ O ₂
Potassium iodide		white powder	KI
Sodium hydrogen carbonate	Sodium bicarbonate (found in baking powder)	white powder	NaHCO ₃
Sodium hydroxide	Caustic soda	white crystals	NaOH
Hydrochloric acid		clear liquid	HCl
Sulphuric acid		clear liquid	H ₂ SO ₄
Nitric acid		clear liquid	HNO ₃
Copper(II) sulphate		Either a grey-white powder or bright blue crystals	CuSO ₄
Magnesium ribbon		silver strip	Mg
Zinc strips		silver strip	Zn
Copper turnings		copper filings	Cu
Iron filings		grey filings	Fe
Magnesium powder		grey powder	Mg
Citric acid	(lemon juice /cleaning)	white powder	C ₆ H ₈ O ₇
Acidified potassium manganate(VII) solution		black crystals	K ₂ MnO ₄
Propanone	Acetone(Nail varnish remover)	clear liquid	C ₃ H ₆ O
Potassium Permanganate		purple liquid	KMnO ₄

Please remember:

- ✓ All chemicals delivered, are safe when handled correctly, as advised in our Risk Assessments and training.
- ✓ The chemicals delivered are of a weak concentration and children come across more dangerous ones at home. The acids produced when vomiting are stronger than those handled in school.
- ✓ Please ensure children/staff are wearing gloves and protective eyewear.
- ✓ Chemical listed above can be disposed of safely:
Liquids – pour down a sink or toilet with running water
Solids – Can be bagged and disposed of in general rubbish

