

Physics Vocabulary

Word	Definition
matter	any object of substance that has mass and takes up space (volume)
atom	the basic unit of matter
molecule	a group of atoms bonded together
particle	a small portion of matter
properties	things you can measure or describe (mass, volume, size, shape, texture, color, conductivity, magnetism, etc.)
magnification	the act of making something much larger in order to be seen more clearly
microscope	a tool used to magnify small objects
balance	an instrument for weighing
mass	the amount of matter in something
substance	a particular kind of matter with like properties
volume	how much space something takes up
density	the mass of a substance per unit volume
solid	a state of matter that has definite shape and definite volume
liquid	a state of matter that takes the shape of its container and has definite volume

gas	a state of matter with no definite shape or volume
physical change	changes that affect the form of the matter but not its chemical makeup
evaporation	the process of the sun's heating liquid water on the Earth's surface and changing the liquid into a gas
condensation	the process of water vapor in the atmosphere eventually cooling and becoming liquid again
Conservation of Matter	matter can be transformed but never created or destroyed
phase change	a change in matter from one state to another without a change to its chemical makeup
mixture	a combination of different things
solution	a mixture in which the particles of different kinds of matter are mixed evenly with each other and the particles do not settle out
chemical change	a change in matter that affects how the particles are arranged and makes a new substance
chemical property	a chemical reactivity property of a substance that does not change
chemical reaction	the rearrangement of the particles of a substance to form a new substance when two or more substances combine