



Acids and alkalis can be corrosive or irritant and require safe handling.

Hydrochloric (HCl), sulfuric (H₂SO₄) and nitric acid (HNO₃) are strong acids.

Acetic and citric acid are weak acids.

| Key words | |
|---------------------|---|
| Acid | Substance that contains hydrogen ion particles (H+) |
| Alkali | Base that dissolve in water. Contain hydroxide ion particles (OH ⁻) |
| Base | A substance that neutralises an acid. |
| Concentration | A measure of the number of ion particles in a given volume. |
| Indicators | Substances used to identify whether unknown solutions are acidic or alkaline. |
| рН | Scale of acidity and alkalinity from 0 to 14 |
| Universal indicator | Used to indicate pH |

Neutralisation reactions

Acid + alkali → salt + water

e.g. Hydrochloric acid + sodium hydroxide \rightarrow Sodium chloride + water 2 HCl + 2 NaOH \rightarrow 2 NaCl + H₂O

Naming the salt:

There are two parts to every salt name:

- i) The first part is the name of the metal found in the starting alkali
- ii) The second part comes from the type of acid used

| Starting Acid in neutralisation reaction | Name of salt formed |
|--|--|
| Hydrochloric acid | Metal Chloride (- Cl) |
| Sulfuric acid | Metal Sulfate (- SO₄) |
| Nitric acid | Metal Nitrate (- NO ₃) |