

# What is lithium used for today

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Johan August Arfwedson?

Robert BunsenAugustus Matthiessen?

&#183;(John Cade)?

Lithium is an alkali metal with atomic number 3. It is a chemical element which is also known as Li on the periodic table. Many industries have been using Lithium for different purposes, from medical services to, even, armed forces in several countries. Studies have shown various benefits of Lithium in the human body, but contradicting opinions are also expressed by other scientists following the lack of proper experiments. Meanwhile, Lithium in the industrial world is well-known for a variety of use, from metallurgy to nuclear engineering. Here are the common uses of Lithium in everyday life:

Lithium has melting point of  $180.50^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the lowest among all metals but the highest compared to other alkali metals, and is highly reactive and possesses high flammability tendency similar to other alkali metals. While other alkali metals are commonly found in plant material, Lithium is found in mineral and in spring and ocean waters. It was first discovered by Swedish chemist Johan August Arfwedson in 1817 when he analyzed mineral petalite ( $\text{LiAl}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)_2$ ).

Lithium only has a valence electron like other alkali metals to form a cation. When a lithium metal is cut open and exposed to open air, the color will quickly turn grey. The coefficient of thermal expansion of Lithium is  $11 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  and its  $92.8 \text{ nO}^{\circ}\text{m}$  at  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Lithium can be easily found in fresh vegetables and grains. Although Lithium is useful for the human body, excessive intake of Lithium is not recommended as this chemical element can cause diarrhea, nausea and tiredness due to its toxicity. Here are the common uses of Lithium in everyday life:

Below is a list of common uses of lithium in different perspectives:

Lithium becomes one of the most important components in electronic devices nowadays as an ingredient for rechargeable batteries. Despite being lightweight, this chemical element is, however, notorious for its flammability since lithium-based batteries are prone to exploding because its single valence electron can be lent to any occurring reaction. This causes many technology companies to rack their brains to prevent such calamity from happening and to ensure the safety of its users.

Although scientists have published plenty of lithium used in neurological conditions and disorders, the results are mixed as their discoveries are different from one another. Several researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg

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School of Public Health found that lithium use does not increase nor decrease the risk of Alzheimer's.

But several clinical trials made by a joint team of Brazilian scientists have proven that the right amount of lithium use in mice shows that this chemical element can prevent the disease development.

Lithium hydroxide or LiOH can be used to minimize friction and many companies have produced several variants of lithium-based lubricant for automotive parts, metals and other platforms. Clarence E. Earle patented lithium salts-based lubricant in 1942 in the US and thus, his product inspired many others to develop different kinds of Lithium lubricant.

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