Physical vs. Chemical Properties

Physical Properties

Physical properties of shape and volume can be applied to all three states of matter, using the terms definite (unchanging) and **indefinite** (changing).

	Solid	Liquid	Gas
Shape	Definite	Indefinite	Indefinite
		(Takes shape of container)	(takes shape of container)
Volume	Definite	Definite	Indefinite
			(fills the entire container)

Chemical Properties

Chemical Properties describe the behaviour of a substance when it interacts with another substance and becomes a new substance.

These properties are determined by reacting a substance with other substances.

Property	Definition & Example
Combustibility	 How easily a substance burns Propane gas is very combustible, water is not
Reaction with acid	 The ability of a substance to react with an acid Zinc bubbles when exposed to acid