

Properties

Acids

Bases

Taste

CAUTION: Never taste chemicals in the laboratory

* Acids taste sour.

* Common examples include citrus fruits and vinegar.

* Bases taste bitter

* Common examples include detergents and soaps

Touch

CAUTION: Never touch chemicals in the laboratory with your bare skin

* Acids can be extremely caustic and many can burn your skin.

* Battery acid (sulphuric acid) is one example

* Bases feel slippery

* Bases can be just as caustic as acids. Sodium hydroxide, for example, can burn skin just as badly as a strong acid.

Indicator Tests

* Acids turn blue litmus paper red

* Phenolphthalein is colorless in an acidic solution

* Bases turn red litmus paper blue

* Phenolphthalein is pink in a basic solution

Reaction with Metal

* Specifically, magnesium and zinc are often used as examples.

* Acids react with metals and corrode them.

* Often, Hydrogen gas is a product of this reaction.

* No reaction.

Conductivity

* Acids ionize in water making them electrolytes (even though you might not expect them to be).

* Bases ionize in water making them electrolytes.

Reactions With Each Other

Acids and bases react together in neutralization reactions to form a salt and water.