

How to Prove Which Materials are Acids or Alkalis

The word acid means 'sour substance', originating from Latin.

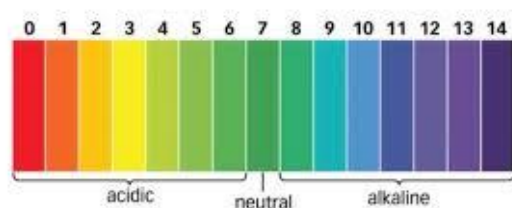
Materials:

- A sharp knife
- A large bowl/basin
- A Colander
- A wooden spoon
- 4 equal pieces of white cotton
- A kettle
- Red Cabbage
- Vinegar
- A lemon
- Water
- Baking powder
- A bar of soap

Method:

- 1) Fill the kettle with water.
- 2) Boil the kettle and put the water into the large bowl or basin.
- 3) Cut the cabbage leaves into pieces.
- 4) Let the leaves soak in the basin of boiled water until the water turns blue.
- 5) Strain the water with the colander.
- 6) Soak the four pieces of cotton in the water for 5 minutes.
- 7) After 5 minutes check the cotton, if they are blue take them out. If not keep them in longer.
- 8) Place down the pieces of cotton on a table.
- 9) Cut the lemon in two and squeeze lemon juice onto one piece of cotton.
- 10) Cut the bar of soap into pieces.
- 11) Rub the soap on another piece of cotton.
- 12) Pour vinegar onto the third piece of cotton.
- 13) Rub baking soda onto the last piece making sure none of the tested items overlap.

this is a ph scale:



Following this procedure you should know which materials are acids or alkalis. Acids turn pink. Alkalis should turn blue, green, yellow or purple.

By Mairéad

