

# What is Thallium?

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## About Thallium

- It is globally known as the 'poisoner's poison'.
- It was discovered by Sir William Crookes in 1861.
- It is a metal belonging to the main Group 13 (IIIa, or boron group) of the periodic table.
- It was used historically as a rodenticide.
- Properties
  - It is tasteless and odorless.
  - It is a soft, heavy and low-melting element of low tensile strength.
  - It does not dissolve in water.
  - It dissolves slowly in hydrochloric acid and dilute sulfuric acid and rapidly in nitric acid.
  - It is found in trace amounts in the earth's crust.
  - This metal continues to oxidize upon prolonged contact with air, generating a heavy nonprotective oxide crust.
- Trace amounts of thallium are present in sulfide ores of zinc and lead; in the roasting of these ores, the thallium becomes concentrated in the flue dusts, from which it is recovered.
- Applications: It is used in the manufacture of electronics, low temperature thermometers, optical lenses, and imitation precious jewels.

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## Q1) What is a periodic table?

It is a tabular arrangement of chemical elements, organized by their atomic number, electron configuration, and recurring chemical properties. Elements in the periodic table are ordered in rows (periods) and columns (groups).

**Source:** [Scientist kills husband, in-laws: What is Thallium and why murderers use this poison?](#)

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