Skills to Develop

- To understand the reactions of the Group 1 elements (lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium and cesium) with chlorine

This page examines the reactions of the Group 1 elements (lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium and cesium) with chlorine.

The Reactions of the elements with Chlorine

The reactions of the Group 1 elements with chlorine are similar in appearance to the reactions of the Group 1 metals with oxygen. Sodium, for example, burns with an intense orange flame in chlorine in exactly the same way that it does in pure oxygen. The other metals also behave the same way in both gases. In each case, a white solid is formed, the simple chloride, \(XCl\):

\[
2X + Cl_2 \rightarrow 2XCl
\]

Contributors

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