

The s-Block Elements Class 11 Notes

Chemistry Chapter 10

• General Electronic Configuration of s-Block Elements

For alkali metals [noble gas] ns^1

For alkaline earth metals [noble gas] ns^2

• Group 1 Elements: Alkali metals

Electronic Configuration, ns^1 , where n represents the valence shell.

These elements are called alkali metals because they readily dissolve in water to form soluble hydroxides, which are strongly alkaline in nature.

<i>Element</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Electronic configuration</i>
Lithium	Li	$1s^2 2s^1$
Sodium	Na	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^1$
Potassium	K,	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^1$
Rubidium	Rb	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^{10} 4s^2 4p^6 5s^1$
Caesium	Cs.	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^{10} 4s^2$
Francium	Fr	$4p^6 4d^{10} 5s^2 5p^6 6s^1$ or $[Xe] 6s^1$ $[Rn] 7s^1$

• Atomic and Ionic Radii

Atomic and ionic radii of alkali metals increase on moving down the group i.e., they increase in size going from Li to Cs. Alkali metals form monovalent cations by losing one valence electron. Thus cationic radius is less as compared to the parent atom.

• Ionization Enthalpy

The ionization enthalpies of the alkali metals are generally low and decrease down the group from Li to Cs.

Reason: Since alkali metals possess large atomic sizes as a result of which the valence s-electron (ns^1) can be easily removed. These values decrease down the group because of decrease in the magnitude of the force of attraction with the nucleus on account of increased atomic radii and screening effect.

• Hydration Enthalpy

Smaller the size of the ion, more is its tendency to get hydrated hence more is the hydration enthalpy.

Hydration enthalpies of alkali metal ions decrease with increase in ionic sizes.

$Li^+ > Na^+ > K^+ > Rb^+ > Cs^+$

• Physical Properties

(i) All the alkali metals are silvery white, soft and light metals.

(ii) They have generally low density which increases down the group.

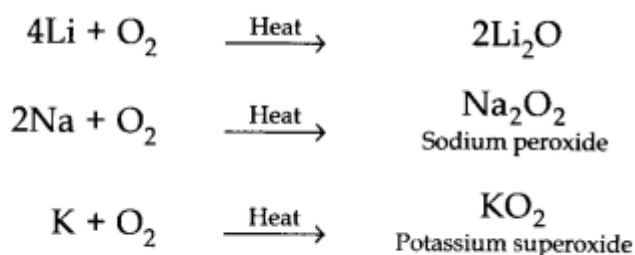
(iii) They impart colour to an oxidising flame. This is because the heat from the flame excites the outermost orbital electron to a higher energy level. When the excited electron comes back to the ground state, there is emission of radiation in the visible region.

• Chemical Properties of Alkali Metals

(i) Reaction with air:

When exposed to air surface of the alkali metals get tarnished due the formation of oxides and hydroxides.

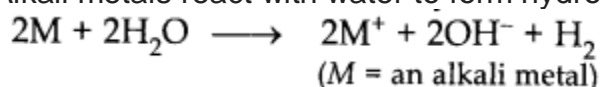
Alkali metals combine with oxygen upon heating to form different oxides depending upon their nature.



↓ Reactivity with oxygen increases from Li to Cs.

(ii) Reaction with water:

Alkali metals react with water to form hydroxide and dihydrogen



(iii) Reaction with hydrogen:

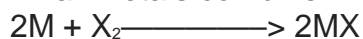
The alkali metals combine with hydrogen at about 673 K (lithium at 1073 K) to form hydrides.



The ionic character of hydrides increases from Li to Cs.

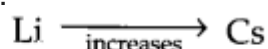
(iv) Reaction with halogens:

Alkali metals combine with halogens directly to form metal halides.



They have high melting and boiling points.

Order of reactivity of M:



Order of reactivity of X_2 : $\text{F}_2 > \text{Cl}_2 > \text{Br}_2 > \text{I}_2$

(v) Reducing nature:

The alkali metals are strong reducing agents. In aqueous solution it has been observed that the reducing character of alkali metals follows the sequence $\text{Na} < \text{K} < \text{Rb} < \text{Cs} < \text{Li}$, Li is the strongest while sodium is least powerful reducing agent. This can be explained in terms of electrode potentials (E°). Since the electrode potential of Li is the lowest. Thus Li is the strongest reducing agent.

(vi) Solubility in liquid ammonia:

The alkali metals dissolve in liquid ammonia to give deep blue solution. The solution is conducting in nature.



When light falls on the ammoniated electrons, they absorb energy corresponding to red colour and the light which emits from it has blue colour. In concentrated solution colour changes from blue to bronze. The blue solutions are paramagnetic while the concentrated solutions are diamagnetic.

• Uses of Alkali Metals

Uses of Lithium

- (i) Lithium is used as deoxidiser in the purification of copper and nickel.
- (ii) Lithium is used to make both primary and secondary batteries.
- (iii) Lithium hydride is used as source of hydrogen for meteorological purposes.
- (iv) Lithium aluminium hydride (LiAlH_4) is a good reducing agent.
- (v) Lithium carbonate is used in making glass.

Uses of Sodium

- (i) Used as sodium amalgam in laboratory (synthesis of organic compounds).

- (ii) Sodium is used in sodium vapour lamp.
- (iii) In molten state, it is used in nuclear reactors.
- (iv) An alloy of sodium-potassium is used in high temperature thermometers.

Uses of Potassium

- (i) Salts of potassium are used in fertilizers.
- (ii) Used as reducing agent.

Uses of Cesium

- (i) In rocket propellant
- (ii) In photographic cells.

• Group 2 Elements: Alkaline Earth Metals

Alkaline Earth Metals: They were named alkaline earth metals since they were alkaline in nature like alkali metals oxides and they were found in the earth's crust.

Example, Be (Beryllium), Ca, Mg, Sr etc.

• Electronic Configuration

Their general electronic configuration is represented as [noble gas] ns^2 .

Element	Symbol	Electronic configuration
Beryllium	Be	$1s^2 2s^2$
Magnesium	Mg	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2$
Calcium	Ca	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2$
Strontium	Sr	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^{10} 4s^2 4p^6 5s^2$
Barium	Ba	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^{10} 4s^2 4p^6 4d^{10} 5s^2 5p^6 6s^2$ or [Xe] $6s^2$
Radium	Ra	[Rn] $7s^2$

• Atomic and Ionic Radii

Atomic and ionic radii of alkaline earth metals are comparatively smaller than alkali metals. Within the group atomic and ionic radii increase with the increase in atomic number. Reason: Because these elements have only two valence electrons and the magnitude of the force of attraction with the nucleus is quite small.

• Ionization Enthalpies

These metals also have low ionization enthalpies due to fairly large size of atoms. As the atomic sizes increase down the group ionization enthalpies are expected to decrease in the same manner.

Due to their small size in comparison to alkali metals first ionization enthalpies of alkaline earth metals is higher than that of alkali metals.

• Hydration Enthalpies

The hydration enthalpies of alkaline earth metal ions are larger than those of the alkali metals. Thus alkaline earth metals have more tendency to become hydrate. The hydration enthalpies decrease down the group since the cationic size increases.



Metallic character: They have strong metallic bonds as compared to the alkali metals in the same period. This is due to the smaller kernel size of alkaline earth metal and two valence electrons present in the outermost shell.

• Physical Properties

- (i) They are harder than alkali metals.
- (ii) M.P and B.P are higher than the corresponding alkali metals due to their small

size.

(iii) The electropositive character increases down the group.

(iv) Except Be and Mg, all these metals impart characteristic colour to the flame.

(v) The alkaline earth metals possess high thermal and electrical conductivity.

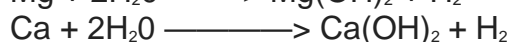
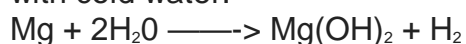
• Chemical Properties

1. Reaction with oxygen. Beryllium and magnesium are kinetically inert to oxygen because of the formation of a thin film of oxide on their surface.

Reactivity towards oxygen increases as going down the group.

2. Reaction with water. Since these metals are less electropositive than alkali metals, they are less reactive towards water.

Magnesium reacts with boiling water or steam. Rest of the members reacts even with cold water.

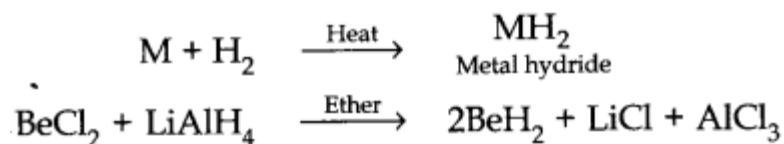


3. Reaction with halogens. They combine with the halogens at appropriate temperature to form corresponding halides MX_2 .



Thermal decomposition of $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{BeF}_4$ is used for the preparation of BeF_2 .

4. Reaction with hydrogen. These metals except Be combine with hydrogen directly upon heating to form metal hydrides.



• General Characteristics of Compounds of Alkaline Earth Metals

Oxides and Hydroxides

(i) The alkaline earth metals burn in oxygen to form MO (monoxide).

(ii) These oxides are very stable to heat.

(iii) BeO is amphoteric in nature while oxides of other elements are ionic.

(iv) Except BeO, they are basic in nature and react with water to form sparingly soluble hydroxides.



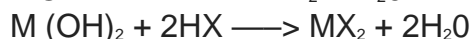
(v) Hydroxides of alkaline earth metals are less stable and less basic than alkali metal hydroxides.

(vi) Beryllium hydroxide is amphoteric in nature.

Halides

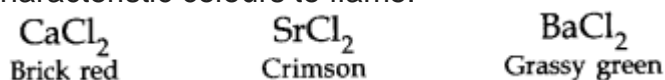
The alkaline earth metals combine directly with halogens at appropriate temperatures forming halides, MX_2 .

They can also be prepared by the action of halogen acids (HX) on metals, metal oxides, metal hydroxides.



(i) Except beryllium halides, all other halides of alkaline earth metals are ionic in nature.

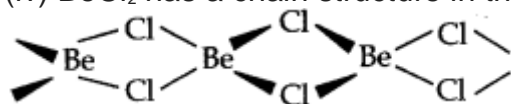
(ii) Except BeCl_2 and MgCl_2 other chloride of alkaline earth metals impart characteristic colours to flame.



(iii) The tendency to form halide hydrates decreases down the group.

For example, ($\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 8 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{SrCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{BaCl}_2 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$)

(iv) BeCl_2 has a chain structure in the solid phase as shown below.



In vapour phase the compound exist as a dimer which decomposes at about 1000K to give monomer in which Be atom is in sp hybridisation state.

Sulphates

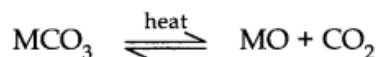
(i) The sulphates of alkaline earth metals are white solids and quite stable to heat.

(ii) BeSO_4 and MgSO_4 are readily soluble in water. Solubility decreases from BeSO_4 to BaSO_4 .

Reason. Due to greater hydration enthalpies of Be^{2+} ions and Mg^{2+} ions they overcome the lattice enthalpy factor. Their sulphates are soluble in water.

Carbonates

Carbonates of alkaline earth metals are thermally unstable and decompose on heating.



The thermal stability increases from BeCO_3 to BaCO_3 .

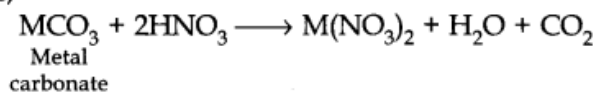
BeCO_3 is unstable and kept only in the atmosphere of CO_2 .

Solubility in water. BeCO_3 is highly soluble in water whereas BaCO_3 is almost insoluble.

Nitrates

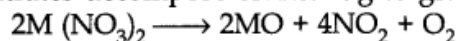
(i) Nitrates of alkaline earth metals are prepared by treating the corresponding metal carbonates with dilute HNO_3

For example,



($M = \text{Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba}$)

(ii) All these metal nitrates decompose on heating to give the oxide

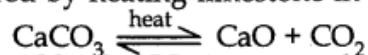


($M = \text{Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba}$)

• Some Important Compounds of Calcium

(i) Calcium Oxide (Quick Lime) CaO

Preparation: It is prepared by heating limestone in a rotary kiln at 1070 – 1270 K.



Since the reaction is reversible, the CO_2 is removed as soon as it is formed to enable the reaction to proceed to completion.

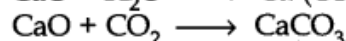
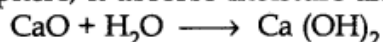
Properties:

(i) It is a white amorphous solid. M.P = 2870 K.

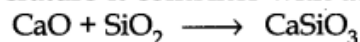
(ii) It reacts with water to become slacked lime. The reaction is highly exothermic and produce hissing sound.



(iii) On exposure to atmosphere, it absorbs moisture and carbon dioxide.



(iv) At high temperature it combines with acidic oxides.



Uses:

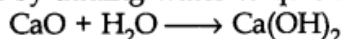
(i) In the manufacture of cement, sodium carbonate, calcium carbide etc.

(ii) Used in the purification of sugar.

(iii) In the manufacture of dye stuffs.

(ii) Calcium Hydroxide (slacked lime), Ca(OH)₂

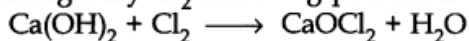
Preparation: It is prepared by adding water to quick lime, CaO.



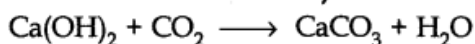
Properties:

(i) It is a white amorphous powder.

(ii) When it is passed through dry Cl₂ bleaching powder is formed.



(iii) When it is treated with CO₂ the solution becomes milky due to the formation of calcium carbonate.



Uses:

(i) It is used in the manufacturing of building material.

(ii) Used in white-wash as a disinfectant.

(iii) Used to detect CO₂ gas in the laboratory.

(iii) Calcium Carbonate or Limestone (CaCO₃)

Preparation: Calcium carbonate occurs in nature in different forms like limestone, marble, chalk etc. It can be prepared by passing CO₂ through slaked lime in limited amount.



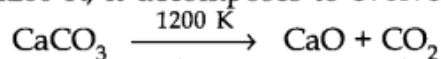
It can also be prepared by the reaction of a solution of sodium carbonate with calcium chloride.



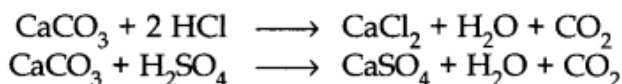
Properties:

(i) It is a white fluffy powder and is sparingly soluble in water.

(ii) Upon heating to 1200 K, it decomposes to evolve carbon dioxide.



(iii) It reacts with dilute acids to form corresponding chloride, sulphate, water and CO₂ gas is evolved.



Uses:

(i) In the manufacturing of Quick Lime.

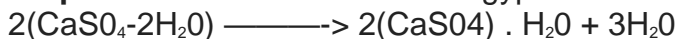
(ii) With MgCO₃ used as flux in the extraction of metals.

(iii) Used as an antacid.

(iv) In the manufacture of high quality paper.

(iv) Calcium Sulphate (Plaster of Paris) CaSO₄·1/2H₂O

Preparation: It is obtained when gypsum CaSO₄·2 H₂O is heated to 393 K



Above 393 K anhydrous CaSO₄ is formed, which is called 'dead burnt plaster'.

Properties:

(i) It is a white amorphous powder.

(ii) When it is mixed in adequate quantity of water it forms a plastic hard mass within 15 minutes.

Uses:

(i) Commonly used in making pottery, ceramics etc.

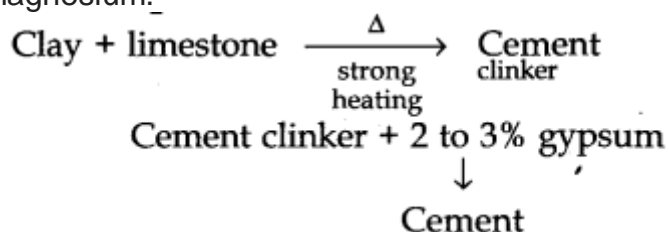
(ii) Used in the surgical bandages for setting the fractured bone or sprain.

(iii) For making statues, ornamental work, decorative material etc.

(v) Cement

Preparation: Prepared by combining a material rich in CaO with other material such

as clay, which contains SiO_2 along with the oxides of aluminium, iron and magnesium.



Important Ingredients of portland cement:

$(\text{Ca}_2\text{SiO}_4)$ dicalcium silicate 26%

$(\text{Ca}_2\text{SiO}_4)$ Tricalcium silicate 51%

$(\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6)$ Tricalcium Aluminate 11%

Uses:

In plastering and in construction purposes.

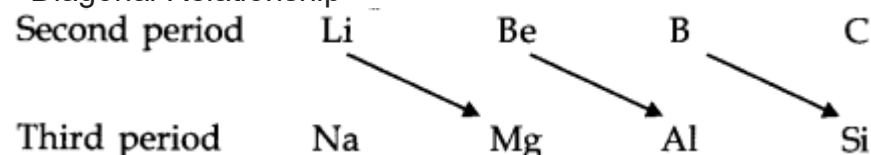
- s-block elements constitute Group I and II elements.

- General electronic configuration of

Group I = [Noble gas] ns^1

Group II = [Noble gas] ns^2

- Diagonal Relationship



The first three elements of second period (Li, Be, B) show diagonal similarity with the elements (Mg, Al, Si) of third period. Such similarities are termed as diagonal relationship.

- The alkali metals are silvery-white soft metals. They are highly reactive. Their aqueous solutions are strongly alkaline in nature. Their atomic and ionic sizes increase on moving down the group and ionization enthalpies decrease systematically down the group.

- Alkaline earth metals. They are much similar to alkali metals but due to small size some differences are there. Their oxides and hydroxides are less basic than the alkali metals.

- Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) is prepared by the electrolysis of aq NaCl in Castner-Kellner cell.

Slaked lime $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ is formed by the action of quick lime on water.

- Gypsum is $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. On heating upto 390 K $\text{CaSO}_4/2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (plaster of paris) is formed.