



What's the Matter with My Snow? Background Information



Physical vs. Chemical Change

Directions: Compare the characteristics of physical and chemical change, then answer the question below.

Physical Change

- The physical properties (the way it looks, smells, feels, etc.) may or may not change.
- The change may be reversible.
- A new substance *is not* produced.

Examples:

- cutting logs to make firewood
- falling leaves from a tree
- mining bauxite from the ground

Chemical Change

- The physical properties change.
- The change is not reversible.
- A new substance *is* produced.

Examples:

- burning firewood to make carbon and heat
- composting leaves into soil
- making aluminum from bauxite

Is snow melting a physical or chemical change?