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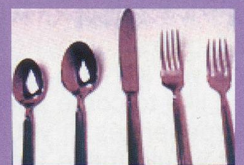
# Hello Children



Rust is a brownish-red substance that forms on the surface of iron or steel when it is exposed to damp air. The term used alone means iron rust, which consists mainly of hydrated iron oxide. Rust is formed by the union of oxygen in the air with iron by a process called oxidation. Rust not only corrodes the surface but also weakens the metal. Long exposure to air and moisture will cause nails to rust off, and rust holes to form in sheet iron. Iron can be mixed with other chemical elements to create rust-resistant metals called stainless steels. Iron and steel that are not rust resistant should be kept dry or coated with a substance, such as chrome or paint, that will resist the action of oxygen. Polished tools may be easily protected if wiped with a cloth soaked in oil. Coating metal objects with heavy greases or spray-on plastics, or wrapping them in special chemically treated paper, also prevents rust.

## FACT FILE

You would not want to eat with rusty cutlery, so chromium is added to steel to make an alloy called stainless steel. Unlike other metals, stainless steels will not react with acids in foods.



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