

# Potassium oxalate

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## Description

Transparent, odorless crystals. Potassium oxalate is used as a water soluble source of oxalate for removing of rust stains and iron gall inks. It is also used as a cleaner for metals and wood, as a mordant in dyeing and as a photographic chemical.

## Synonyms and Related Terms

oxalate of potash

## Risks

- Toxic by ingestion and inhalation.
- Skin contact may cause irritation.
- Fisher Scientific: [MSDS \(https://fscimage.fishersci.com/msds/96431.htm\)](https://fscimage.fishersci.com/msds/96431.htm)

## Physical and Chemical Properties

Soluble in water. Insoluble in ethanol. Decomposes when heated to form potassium carbonate.

<b>Composition</b>	K <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> · H <sub>2</sub> O
<b>CAS</b>	6487-48-5
<b>Density</b>	2.08 g/ml
<b>Molecular Weight</b>	mol. wt. = 166.22

## Resources and Citations

- Richard S. Lewis, *Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary*, Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, 10th ed., 1993
- *The Merck Index*, Martha Windholz (ed.), Merck Research Labs, Rahway NJ, 10th edition, 1983 Comment: entry 7820
- Michael McCann, *Artist Beware*, Watson-Guption Publications, New York City, 1979
- Photographic chemicals: [www.jetcity.com/~mrjones/chemdesc.htm](http://www.jetcity.com/~mrjones/chemdesc.htm)

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