



Effect of Aluminium Foil on Packed Food

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Abstract : Aluminium is a chemical element with symbol Al and atomic number 13. It is a silvery white, soft, non-magnetic and ductile metal in the boron group.

Aluminium metal is so chemically reactive that native specimens are rare and limited to extreme reducing environment. Instead it is found combined in over 270 different minerals. (APHA, 2012)

Although Al is the most abundant metal in the earth's crust, it is never found free in the nature. All of the earth's Al has combined with other elements to form compounds. Two of the most common compounds are alum, such as potassium aluminium sulphate $[KAl(SO_4)_2]$.

Al is remarkable for its low density and its ability to resist corrosion through the phenomenon of passivation. Al and its alloy are vital to the aerospace industry and important in transportation and building industries such as building facades and window frames. The oxides and sulphates are the most useful compounds of aluminium.

Despite its prevalence in the environment, no known form of life uses Al salts metabolically, but Al is well tolerated by plants and animals. Because of these salts abundance, the potential for a biological role for them is of continuing interest.

Keywords: Aluminium, Abundant, Compounds, Environment.

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Introduction :

Symbol	: Al
Atomic mass	: $26.98153u \pm 8 \times 10^{-7}u$
Melting point	: 660°C
Atomic number	: 13
Electronic configuration	: $[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^1$

Engineers are especially interested in using aluminium more often for electrical equipment because it is so much cheaper.