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Aluminum (aluminium in English) is the third most abundant element after oxygen and silicon and the most abundant metal in the earth's crust. The chief ore of aluminum is bauxite. Aluminum is remarkable for its low density and its ability to resist corrosion.

Aluminum's corrosion resistance when a thin surface layer of aluminum oxide forms when the bare metal is exposed to air, efficiently preventing further oxidation.

Aluminum is the most widely used non-ferrous metal. It exceeds that of any other metal except iron.

Aluminum is almost always alloyed, which markedly improves its mechanical properties, especially when hardened. The main alloying agents are copper, zinc, magnesium, manganese, and silicon.

Recycling

Recycling involves melting the scrap, a process that requires only 5% of the energy used to produce aluminum from ore.

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