



Rochelle Salt (Sodium Potassium Tartrate)

Other Names

Potassium Sodium Tartrate

Description

A colorless to blue-white orthorhombic crystalline salt with a saline, cooling taste. It is also called Seignette salt after Pierre Seignette, an apothecary of La Rochelle, France, who was the first to make it (c.1675).

Properties

- Chemically it is potassium sodium tartrate $\text{KNa}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_6) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- It is soluble in water and slightly soluble in alcohol
- melts at about 75°C
- has specific gravity 1.79
- exhibits double refraction.

Directions for use

It is used in medicine as a mild purgative, often in the form of Seidlitz powders. It is an ingredient of Fehling's Solution. It is used in silvering mirrors. Crystals of Rochelle salt are easily grown and are used in piezoelectric devices, e.g., crystal microphones and phonograph pickup cartridges.

Hazard Warning

See MSDS

Dosage

None

Packaging

25 kg bag, 50 kg drum