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Sodium Chlorate



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Sodium chlorate is an inorganic compound with the chemical formula NaClO_3 . It is a white crystalline powder that is readily soluble in water. It is hygroscopic. It decomposes above $300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to release oxygen and leaves sodium chloride. Several hundred million tons are produced annually, mainly for applications in bleaching pulp to produce high brightness paper.

A powerful oxidizing agent, sodium chlorate is an odorless, pale-yellow crystalline solid and readily dissolves in water. It is inflammable in nature in pure form and acts as an extreme combustion accelerant in the presence of flammable materials during decomposition. Currently, sodium chlorate is widely used in the preparation of chlorine dioxide which is employed as a bleaching agent in the manufacturing of bleached pulp.