

Classifying Matter: States of Matter

Chemists classify and describe matter in a variety of ways.

- One fundamental method is to classify by what physical state of matter the substance is.
- Another method would be to categorize by whether the substance is a pure substance or a mixture.
- A third way might be to classify an element as metal or nonmetal.
- There certainly will be other ways we will study as well.

Matter can be grouped according to its physical state of matter

Explaining the MACROscopic by describing the NANOscopic			
	Solid	Liquid	Gas
Macroscopic Property: Compressible or Not ?	NOT compressible		compressible
Nanoscope Explanation	The particles are touching each other.		The particles are quite far apart
Macroscopic Property: Fluid or Rigid ?	They are "shoulder-to-shoulder"	Fluid, does take the shape of its container	
Nanoscope Explanation	Particles are stuck together	Particles are NOT stuck together. They move freely.	
Diagram of the Nanoscopic: It would be useful to put in some "wiggle" lines and "speed" lines to indicate the motion of the particles.			