

Predicting Solubility

The table below shows a set of ionic compounds, each of which occupies a space located at the intersection of a row that identifies the cation and a column that identifies the anion. For example, iron (III) chloride, FeCl_3 , is located in the first column of the second row at the intersection of Fe^{3+} and Cl^- . For each of the ionic compounds represented here, consider what will happen if you add a pinch of the solid to to a test-tube of water: if the solid **will not** dissolve, then write the ionic compound's formula at the intersection of the cation and the anion; if the solid **will** dissolve, then leave the space blank.

anion \rightarrow cation \downarrow	Cl^-	OH^-	NO_3^-	SO_4^{2-}	PO_4^{3-}	CO_3^{2-}	F^-
K^+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fe^{3+}	—	$\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$	—	—	FePO_4	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO}_3)_3$	—
Ca^{2+}	—	$\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$	—	CaSO_4	$\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$	CaCO_3	CaF_2
Ag^+	AgCl	AgOH	—	Ag_2SO_4	Ag_3PO_4	Ag_2CO_3	—
Pb^{2+}	PbCl_2	$\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$	—	PbSO_4	$\text{Pb}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$	PbCO_3	PbF_2
NH_4^+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes

- alkali metal cations, such as K^+ , and the ammonium cation, NH_4^+ , generally form very soluble ionic compounds
- the nitrate anion, NO_3^- , generally forms very soluble ionic compounds
- the chloride anion, Cl^- (and the bromide anion, Br^- , and the iodide anion, I^-) generally form very soluble ionic compounds with the notable exceptions of Ag^+ , Hg_2^{2+} , and Pb^{2+}
- the fluoride anion, F^- , generally forms insoluble (or slightly soluble) ionic compounds with the alkaline earths, such as Ca^{2+} , and with divalent transition metals, such as Pb^{2+}
- the sulfate anion, SO_4^{2-} , generally forms soluble ionic compounds with the notable exceptions of Ag^+ , Hg_2^{2+} , Pb^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Sr^{2+} , and Ba^{2+}
- the hydroxide anion, OH^- , generally forms insoluble ionic compounds
- the phosphate anion, PO_4^{3-} , generally forms insoluble ionic compounds
- the carbonate anion, CO_3^{2-} , generally forms insoluble ionic compounds