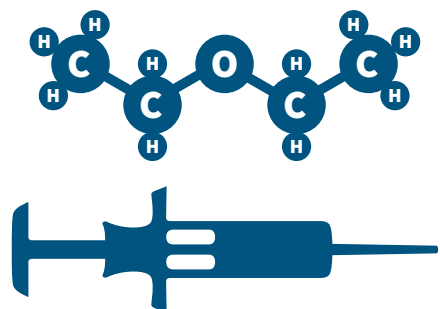


WHAT'S CHEMISTRY EVER DONE FOR US?

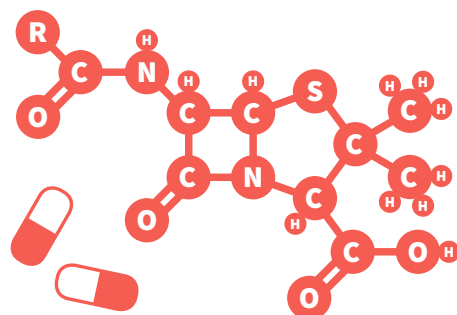
Science plays a vital role in our health, safety, economies, and governments. Here are just some of the ways chemistry impacts your everyday life.

ANAESTHETICS



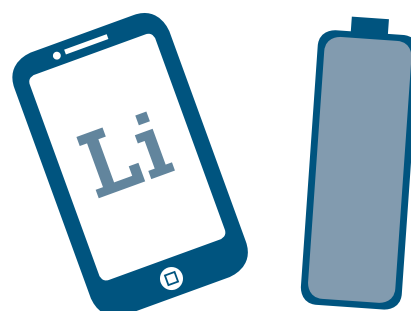
We take surgery under anaesthesia for granted today, but the first anaesthetics were only discovered in the mid-1800s. Subsequently chemists have made many more.

ANTIBIOTICS



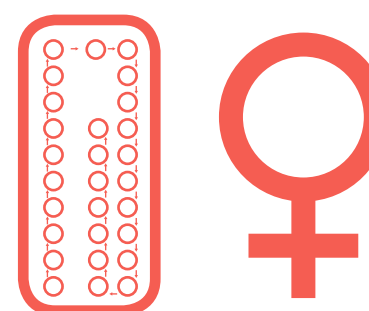
Bacterial infections were a common cause of death until antibiotics became available in the 1930s. Chemists have since discovered numerous classes of antibiotics.

BATTERIES



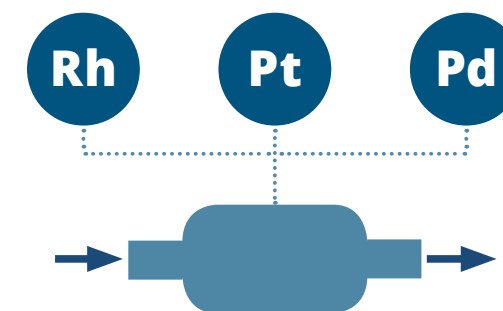
Both alkaline batteries and the lithium batteries in your phone were developed by chemists, and they're still working on making improvements to them.

BIRTH CONTROL



The first oral contraceptives became available in the 1960s after chemists developed synthetic compounds that could affect hormone levels in the body.

CATALYTIC CONVERTERS



Catalytic converters, developed in the 1960s and 70s, convert toxic gases and pollutants in car exhaust gas into less harmful emissions, helping to reduce pollution.

FERTILISERS



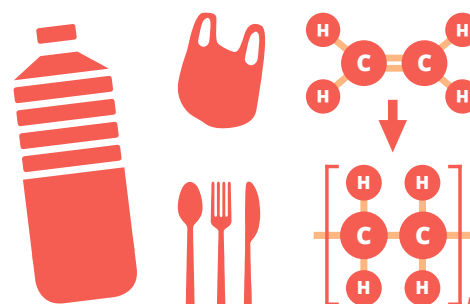
The Haber process, developed in the early 1900s, creates 450 million tons of nitrogen fertiliser per year. This is vital for growing food and supporting the world's population.

FUELS



Petrol and diesel extracted from crude oil currently fuel the majority of our cars. Chemists are also investigating cleaner alternatives, such as hydrogen fuels.

PLASTICS



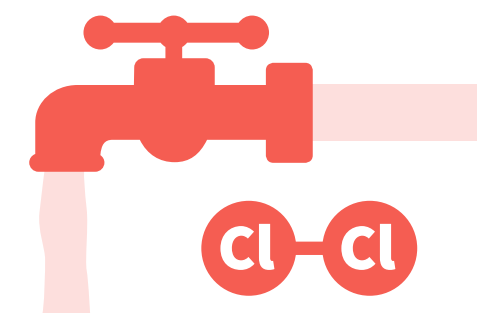
Plastics are everywhere in our day-to-day lives. Over the years chemists have developed a range of plastics for different uses, including clothing and food packaging.

SCREENS



If you're reading this on a screen, you have chemists to thank. Different types of screens and touch screens all rely on materials developed by chemists to work.

WATER TREATMENT



Water chlorination began in the early 1900s and kills bacteria and microbes, helping prevent the spread of diseases such as cholera. It also keeps swimming pools clear!



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