

SECTION OVERVIEW

16.3: An Introduction to Structures and Types of Solids

Solids are characterized by structural rigidity and resistance to changes of shape or volume. Unlike a [liquid](#), a solid object does not flow to take on the shape of its container, nor does it expand to fill the entire volume available to it like a [gas](#). The atoms in a solid are tightly bound to each other, either in a regular geometric lattice (crystalline solids, which include metals and ordinary water ice) or irregularly (an amorphous solid such as common window glass).

Topic hierarchy

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