

SOURCES OF ENERGY

Fuels

FUEL: A fuel is a chemical which releases energy when heated with oxygen. The energy may release in form of heat or light.

E.g.: Wood, gas, petrol, kerosene, diesel, coal and animal waste.

Note: Fuels are combustible substances.

Types of Fuels:

There are three types of fuels solid flues, liquid fuels & gaseous fuels.

(i) Solid fuels:

The various kinds of solid fuels are wood, charcoal, coke, coal, paraffin and tallow. Wood was the first solid fuel to be used by humans. Paraffin and tallow are used to make candles.

(ii) Liquid fuels:

Petrol, kerosene, diesel and methanol are some common liquid fuels. Most liquid fuels are obtained from petroleum. They leave no solid residue when burnt and can be stored easily.

(iii) Gaseous fuels:

Natural gas, coal gas producer gas, water gas and liquefied petroleum gas are some examples of gaseous fuels.

Fossil Fuels:

Fossil fuels are the remains of the prehistoric animals or plants, buried under the earth, millions of years ago.

E.g.: Coal, petroleum and natural gas.

Fossil fuels are formed in the absence of oxygen. The chemical effects pressure, heat and bacteria, convert the buried remains of plants & animals into fossil fuels like coal, petroleum and natural gas.

It was the sunlight of long ago that made plants grow, which were then converted into fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are energy rich compounds of carbon, which are originally made by the plants with the help of sun's energy.