

Rare Earths Industry Facts

China produces up to 97 per cent of the world's supply of rare earths.

China's exports of rare earth elements fell by 9.3 per cent in 2010 due to export restrictions.

Chinese, Japanese and United States electronics companies are the biggest consumers of rare earths.

Rare Earth consumer applications include rechargeable batteries for hybrid cars, advanced ceramics, magnets, DVD players, wind turbines, computers, TV's, lighting, fibre optics and superconductors.

Rare Earths are used in the defence sector and are found in guided missiles, night-vision goggles, laser range-finders, communications and stealth technology.

How they work? Rare earths allow for smaller, lighter batteries and motors and now key to making handheld devices such as Apple's iPhone.

Rare earths are likely to shape future technology including many green tech applications.

A list of the seventeen rare earth elements, their atomic number, symbol and selection of main uses is as follows:

21, Sc, Scandium - light alloy for aerospace

39, Y, Yttrium - lasers, flat-screen TVs, high temperature superconductors

57, La, Lanthanum - glass, batteries, catalyst for oil refineries

58, Ce, Cerium - self-cleaning ovens and catalyst for oil refineries

59, Pr, Praseodymium - magnets, lasers, enamels

60, Nd, Neodymium - magnets, lasers, ceramics

61, Pm, Promethium - nuclear batteries

62, Sm, Samarium - magnets, lasers, neutron captures

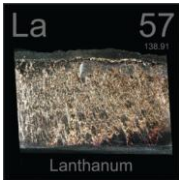
63, Eu, Europium - TVs, lasers

64, Gd, Gadolinium - magnets, lasers, computers

65, Tb, Terbium - TVs, lights, lasers

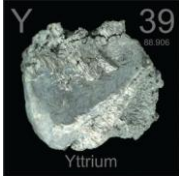
66, Dy, Dysprosium - magnets, lasers

67, Ho, Holmium - lasers



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68, Er, Erbium - lasers, vanadium steel

69, Tm, Thulium - X-ray machines

70, Yb, Ytterbium - lasers, chemical reducing agents

71, Lu, Lutetium - PET scans, glass

ENDS

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