

History of bromine

Two chemists, the German Carl Jacob Lowig and Frenchman Antoine Balard independently discovered bromine in the 19th century while studying natural salt waters. They crystallized the salts and saturated the remaining liquid with chlorine. What was left after distillation was a dark red liquid: bromine. The earliest use of bromine was in medicines. But today, the largest use of bromine is in fire safety.



1825 - 1826

Discovery of bromine

By Antoine Balard and Carl Jacob Lowig



1930

Water treatment

Bromine based products have been used in water treatment applications to purify and disinfect water since the 1930s.



1960s

Rubber

Bromobutyl rubber was developed in the 1960s. Halobutyl (chloro and bromo butyl) is today the most important material for the inner linings of tubeless tires.



2014

Vanderbilt University study

A US study shows that bromine is one of the 28 elements essential to tissue development in all humans and animals.

1835

Pharmaceuticals

The first known use of bromine for medical purposes was back in 1835. Today it is used in both drugs and as a catalyst for the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.



1950

Fire safety

The commercialisation of the first bromine-based fire safety solutions started in the 1950's.



2000

Mercury capture

Bromine has been used in coal-fired power plant to significantly reduce mercury emissions since 2000.

