

# 9 Fast Facts About Molybdenum

**Atomic  
Number**

**42**

Does not occur in nature in its native state; found only chemically combined with other elements, particularly sulfur.

From the Greek word "molybdos" meaning "lead"

**Can be used in:**

- Alloys
- Electrodes
- Missile & Aircraft Parts
- Nuclear Energy Applications

Discovered in 1781 by Carl William Scheele in Sweden.

*Pure molybdenum  
crystal*

Valuable as a catalyst in the refining of petroleum

Improves the strength of steel at high temperatures

Oxidizes at elevated temperatures

The metal is silvery white, very hard, but softer and more ductile than tungsten.

17.48	19.61
<b>Mo</b>	
<b>Molybdenum</b>	
<b>42</b>	
2.29	2.40

References:

<http://www.webelements.com/molybdenum/>  
[www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

The image is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/).

©2014 Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.  
All rights reserved.

**Delivering Value to the Mining Industry**

[www.thermoscientific.com/mining](http://www.thermoscientific.com/mining)

**Thermo**  
SCIENTIFIC  
Part of Thermo Fisher Scientific