

Aluminium is the third most abundant element in the earth's crust, always found locked in combination with other elements. It was not isolated in metallic form until early in the nineteenth century, with commercial production being made possible by the independent discovery in 1886 by Charles Hall (USA) and Paul Heroult (France) of an economical way to separate the metal from alumina (aluminium oxide).

Since then, Aluminium has increasingly entered our lives and we now extensively utilise the advantage offered by its diverse, yet complementary properties.

These are:

Lightness	One third the weight of steel.
Corrosion Resistant	Naturally protected by a thin self-protective film that is colourless, nontoxic and doesn't flake off. Properly applied paint finishes adhere extremely well and if penetrated there is no rust produced to cause blistering or flaking of the paint.
High Heat conductivity	Weight for Weight, aluminium's conductivity is: 1.8 times that of Copper 12 times that of Rolled Steel 40 times that of Stainless Steel
High electrical Conductivity	Weight for weight, twice that of Copper.
Appearance	Without special protection, aluminium is a 'clean' material. Anodising, painting and texturing confer decorative appearances that retain aluminium's natural durability.
Other Properties	Non sparking Non magnetic High reflectivity Easily worked and shaped High scrap value - recyclable