

Everyday examples of thermal energy

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The thermal energy, also known as caloric energy or calorific, is one that manifests itself in the form of heat. It is, however, a product of the movement or vibration of the atoms, so it is a manifestation of the internal energy of the system, which is nothing more than the accumulated kinetic energy of the particles. For instance: the chimneys, the Sun, the hot springs.

This type of energy is measured, like the others, in joules (J), according to the international system, although it is also usual to speak of calories: 4.18 joules, the amount of caloric energy necessary to raise a gram of water by one degree centigrade.

The amount of thermal energy in a system, as will be supposed, it has directly to do with the temperature exhibited by it. Thus, the more thermal energy (heat) we introduce to a container with water, for example, the more its temperature will rise, until it reaches that necessary for a phase change: the water evaporates and goes from liquid to gaseous.

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