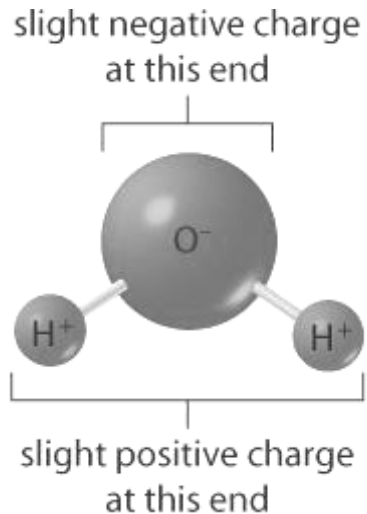


# The Water Molecule

A water molecule consists of two hydrogen atoms that are covalently bonded to one oxygen atom. The hydrogen end of the molecule has a slightly positive charge and the oxygen end has a slightly negative charge, making water a polar molecule.



This polarity allows a water molecule to form hydrogen bonds between the hydrogen of one molecule and the oxygen of a nearby molecule. Due to its ability to form hydrogen bonds, water has several unique properties.

Water is:

- an excellent carrier of dissolved minerals and other materials.
- an effective medium for transferring energy.
- a universal solvent.

Water has:

- a relatively high boiling point and melting point.
- special adhesive and cohesive properties.
- a high heat capacity.