



Where to look for magnets

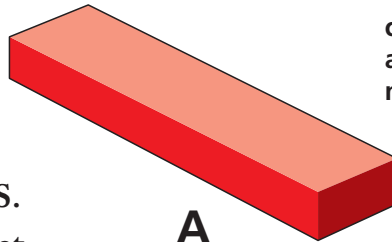
Magnetism pulls and pushes against things that have iron in them.

MAGNETISM is the name of an invisible push or pull that works between some materials.

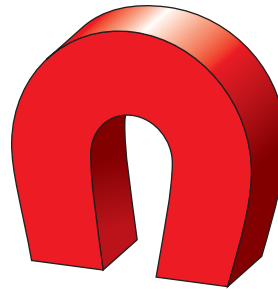
When things have strong magnetism we call them **MAGNETS**. Iron and steel are the materials most commonly used for magnets.

Many shapes and sizes

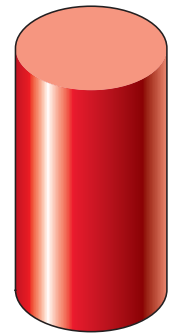
The size and shape of a magnet do not change the way it works. So you can find magnets that look like bars, horseshoes, rods (barrels) and tubes (Picture 1). Some magnets even look like wires.



A



B



C

▼ (Picture 1) Here are three common shapes of magnets. They are (A) bar magnet, (B) horseshoe magnet and (C) barrel magnet.

Magnets behind the scenes

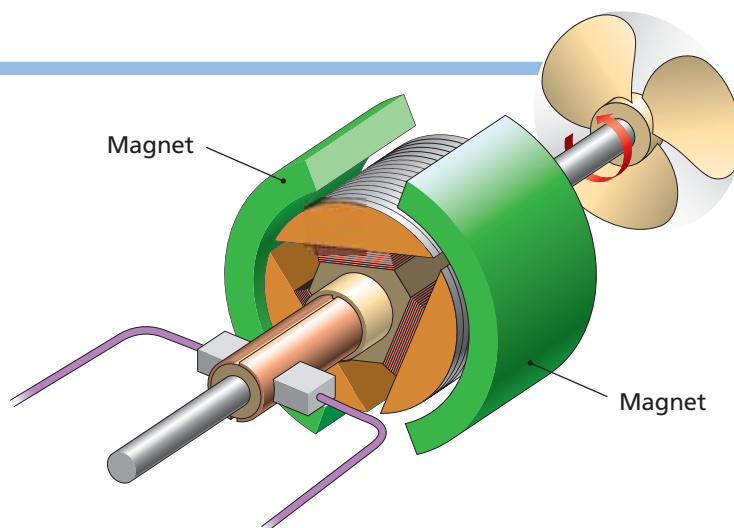
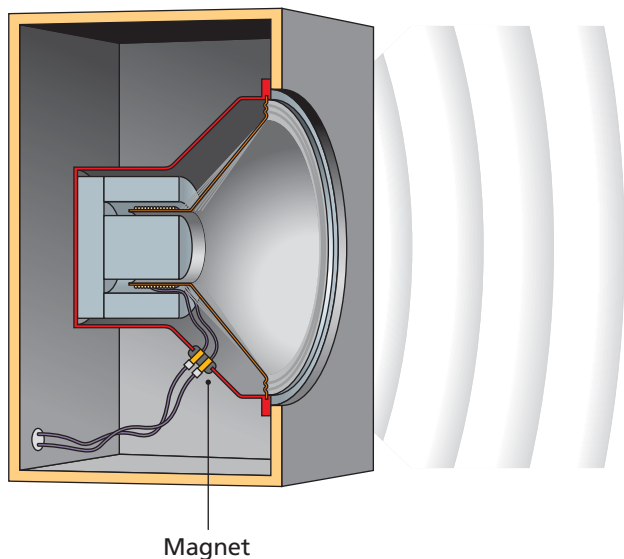
Magnets are not as easy to find as springs. Many of them are built into things. Look at the magnetic letters (Picture 2). Here a magnet is hidden behind each letter.

There are also magnets in loudspeakers (Picture 3) and in motors (Picture 4). Many door catches use magnets (Picture 5). Fridge doors are held shut with a magnetic strip (Picture 6) and video tape is made of a tape coated in magnetic powder (Picture 7).

◀ (Picture 2) These letters have magnets in their backs so that they can be attached to a fridge door.

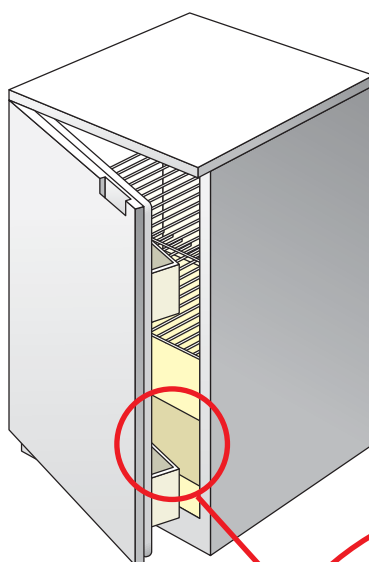
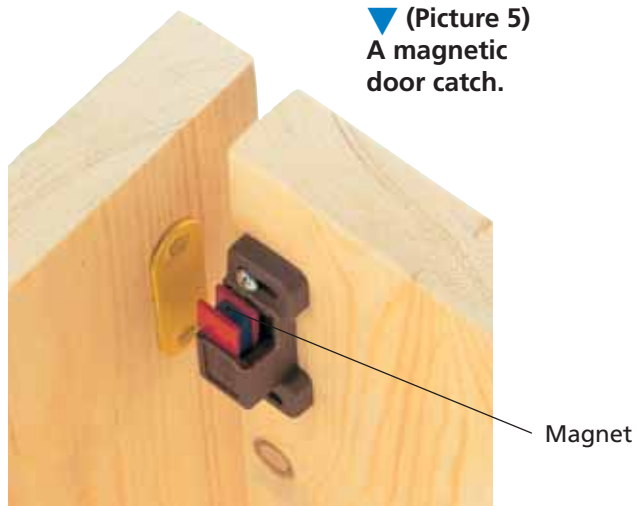


▼ (Picture 3) There is a magnet in this loudspeaker.

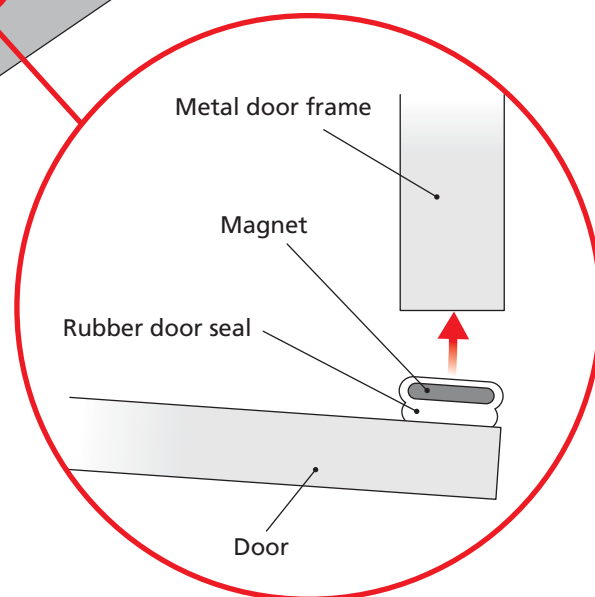


▲ (Picture 4) Magnets are used in electric motors.

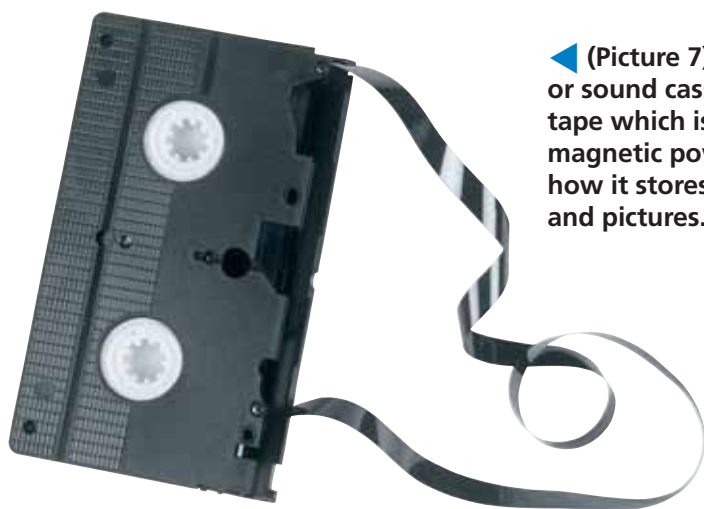
▼ (Picture 5) A magnetic door catch.



◀ (Picture 6) The doors of fridges are held shut by magnetism. There are small magnets in the rubber door seal that attract the steel of the case.



◀ (Picture 7) A video or sound cassette has a tape which is coated in magnetic powder. This is how it stores the sound and pictures.



Summary

- Magnetism is a force that works between magnetic materials.
- The magnets we use are often hidden inside objects.