

Calcimetry

The calcimeter provides an indication of the total carbonate content, as well as the amount of limestone and dolomite, in a sample. This is achieved by measuring the rate of response of dilute hydrochloric acid on rock samples.

The calcimeter is calibrated with a fixed amount of 100% calcium carbonate, and the same weight of sample used for testing. Dilute hydrochloric acid is added to the sample and the CO₂ given off during the carbonate-acid reaction is measured by a pressure transducer and then converted to an electrical signal. The first, quick reaction indicates the amount of calcite (limestone) content and the continued, slower reaction indicates the dolomite content.

