

Weathering--the response of minerals and thus the rocks those minerals make up to an environment different that the environment under which those minerals or rocks were formed. This occurs at the juxtaposition of the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. In other words, at the Earth's surface.

Types of weathering:

1. Mechanical--disintegration

No minerals destroyed, no minerals made. Just smaller particles.

2. Chemical--decomposition

Some if not all the minerals undergo a chemical reaction forming new minerals.