

Definitions and Concepts for WJEC (Wales) Chemistry GCSE

Topic 1.6 - Limestone

Definitions in **bold** are for higher tier only

Definitions have been taken, or modified from the [WJEC \(Wales\) Specification for GCSE Chemistry. 3410. Version 2 March 2019](#)

Cement: Used as an ingredient in building materials like mortar and concrete. Made by heating powdered limestone with clay.

Limestone: An inorganic compound, also known as calcium carbonate (CaCO_3), which is produced when carbon dioxide reacts with limewater.

Limewater: An inorganic compound, also known as calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)_2), which is produced when slaked lime is dissolved in water. Limewater reacts with carbon dioxide to produce limestone.

Quicklime: An inorganic compound, also known as calcium oxide (CaO), which is produced from the thermal decomposition of limestone.

Slaked lime: A solid inorganic compound, also known as calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)_2), which is produced when lime is mixed with water. Used to neutralise acidic lakes.

Thermal decomposition: The breaking down of a compound by heating. Metal carbonates thermally decompose to produce a metal oxide and carbon dioxide.

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