

Table 2. Terms for describing consistence (rupture resistance) of blocklike specimens. (From: Soil survey division staff. 1993. Soil survey manual, USDA-SCS Agric. Handb. 18. p. 174-175. U.S. Gov. Print. Office, Washington, DC.)

Classes for moisture states			Test description	
Moderately dry and very dry	Slightly dry and wetter	Air dry, submerged	Operation	Stress applied
Loose	Loose	Not applicable	Specimen not obtainable	
Soft	Very friable	Non-cemented	Fails under very slight force applied slowly between thumb and forefinger	<8 N
Slightly hard	Friable	Extremely weakly cemented	Fails under slight force applied slowly between thumb and forefinger	8-20 N
Moderately hard	Firm	Very weakly cemented	Fails under moderate force applied slowly between thumb and forefinger	20-40 N
Hard	Very firm	Weakly cemented	Fails under strong force applied slowly between thumb and forefinger	40-80 N
Very hard	Extremely firm	Moderately cemented	Cannot be failed between thumb and forefinger but can be between both hands or by placing on a nonresilient surface and applying gentle force underfoot	80-160 N
Extremely hard	Slightly rigid	Strongly cemented	Cannot be failed in hands but can be underfoot by full body weight applied slowly	160-800 N
Rigid	Rigid	Very strongly cemented	Cannot be failed underfoot by full body weight but can be by <300 J blow	800N-300 J
Very rigid	Very rigid	Indurated	Cannot be failed by blow of <300 J	≥300 J