

Fracture character	Other terms	Fracture (crosses column in one loading step)	Description	Shear Quality (Birkeland and Johnson 1999, 2002)
Sudden Planar (SP)	Shear, pop, clean, fast	Yes (sudden)	Thin planar fracture, (block slides easily)	Q1
Sudden Collapse (SC)	Collapse, drop	Yes (sudden)	Layer collapses (with a single loading step)	Q1
Resistant Planar (RP)	Shear, clean	More than one step	Thin planar fracture, (block won't slide easily)	Q2 or Q3
Progressive Compression (PC)	Indistinct, rough, slow	Inconsistent	Weak layer compresses (with additional loading step)	Q2 or Q3
Non-planar Break (B)	Break, rough	Inconsistent	Irregular fracture	Q3 Sunrockice.com 2005

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