

Vocabulary



air pressure the force exerted by the weight of a column of air pushing down on an area; also called atmospheric or barometric pressure

Air has weight because of the force of Earth's gravity pulling down on it.

aneroid barometer a type of barometer that uses an airtight metal chamber to measure changes in air pressure

Aneroid means "without liquid."

barometer a weather instrument used to measure air pressure

A "rising barometer" indicates an increase in air pressure and clearing weather. A "falling barometer" indicates a decrease in air pressure and an approaching storm.

isobars curved lines on a weather map that connect locations that have the same air pressure

Iso- means "equal," and *bar* means "pressure."

liquid barometer a type of barometer that uses a column of liquid to measure changes in air pressure

The first barometers were tubes of liquid that rose and fell as air pressure changed. The liquid is most often mercury. Thus, a unit of measure for air pressure is "inches of mercury."