

Terms to describe stratification		Terms to describe cross-stratification		Thickness	Terms to describe splitting property
Very thick-bedded	Beds	Very thickly cross-bedded	Cross-beds	Greater than 120 cm.	Massive
Thick-bedded		Thickly cross-bedded		120 cm. (about 4 ft.) to	Blocky
Thin-bedded		Thinly cross-bedded		60 cm. (about 2 ft.) to	Slabby
Very thin-bedded		Very thinly cross-bedded		5 cm. (about 2 in.) to	Flaggy
Laminated	Laminae	Cross-laminated	Cross-laminae	1 cm. (about 1/2 in.) to	Shaly (claystone, siltstone) Platy (sandstone, limestone)
Thinly laminated		Thinly cross-laminated		2 mm. (about .08 in.) or less	Papery

Figure 1. Classification scheme of McKee and Weir (1953) for bedding and parting, based on thickness of layers. A massive unit may be very thin-bedded or laminated, since not all bedding planes develop parting.

Bedding (used interchangeably with the general term stratification) should not be confused with parting, which is the splitting property of a rock. Planes of parting, arise through the preferential weathering of selected bedding planes because of the variable resistance of grains of different composition or grain size to erosion and chemical attack. Parting usually gives a rock a thicker-bedded appearance than it actually has, since not all bedding planes develop parting. Common terms used to describe parting are presented in Figure 1.

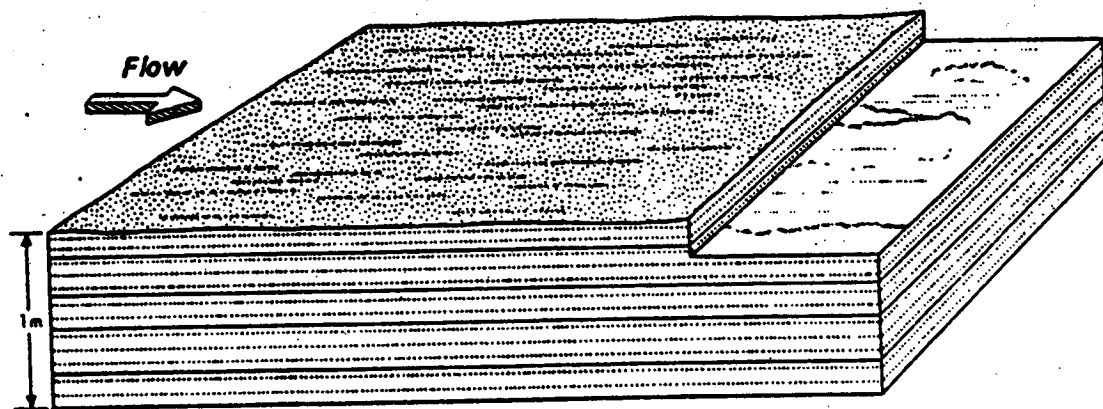


Figure 2. Horizontal bedding/lamination.