



MECHANICAL
A rock is physically broken into smaller pieces.

CHEMICAL
The composition, or make up, of a rock is changed.

Freezing and thawing
Water freezes in cracks, expands, and breaks rock more.

Release of pressure
Materials are removed from surface, rock beneath expands and breaks.

Plant growth
As roots grow, they sometimes go through rocks and sidewalks, breaking them.

Actions of animals
Any animal that burrows (owls, moles, groundhogs, even worms) dig through rock and break it!

Abrasion
Pieces of rock moved by wind or water crash into each other and other objects breaking pieces of as they go.

Water
Weathers rock by dissolving it.

Oxygen
Causes oxidation, or rusting.

Carbon Dioxide
Dissolves in rainwater, goes into the soil, creates carbonic acid that weathers rock.

Living Organisms
Plants produce weak acids that change rock.

Acid Rain
Polluted air causes acid rain that rapidly weathers the rock.