

work of adhesion

The work of adhesion per unit area, $w_A^{\alpha\beta\delta}$, is the work done on the system when two condensed phases α and β , forming an interface of unit area are separated reversibly to form unit areas of each of the $\alpha\delta$ - and $\beta\delta$ - interfaces.

where $\gamma^{\alpha\beta}$, $\gamma^{\alpha\delta}$ and $\gamma^{\beta\delta}$ are the *surface tensions* between two bulk phases α , β ; α , δ and β , δ respectively.

The work of adhesion as defined above, and traditionally used, may be called the work of separation.

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