

17.2 Measuring and Expressing Enthalpy Changes > Calorimetry

Calorimetry is the measurement of the heat flow into or out of a system for chemical and physical processes.

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- The insulated device used to measure the absorption or release of heat in chemical or physical processes is called a **calorimeter**.

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Constant-Pressure Calorimeters

The enthalpy (H) of a system accounts for the heat flow of the system at constant pressure.

- The heat absorbed or released by a reaction at constant pressure is the same as the change in enthalpy, symbolized as ΔH .

17.2 Measuring and Expressing Enthalpy Changes > Calorimetry

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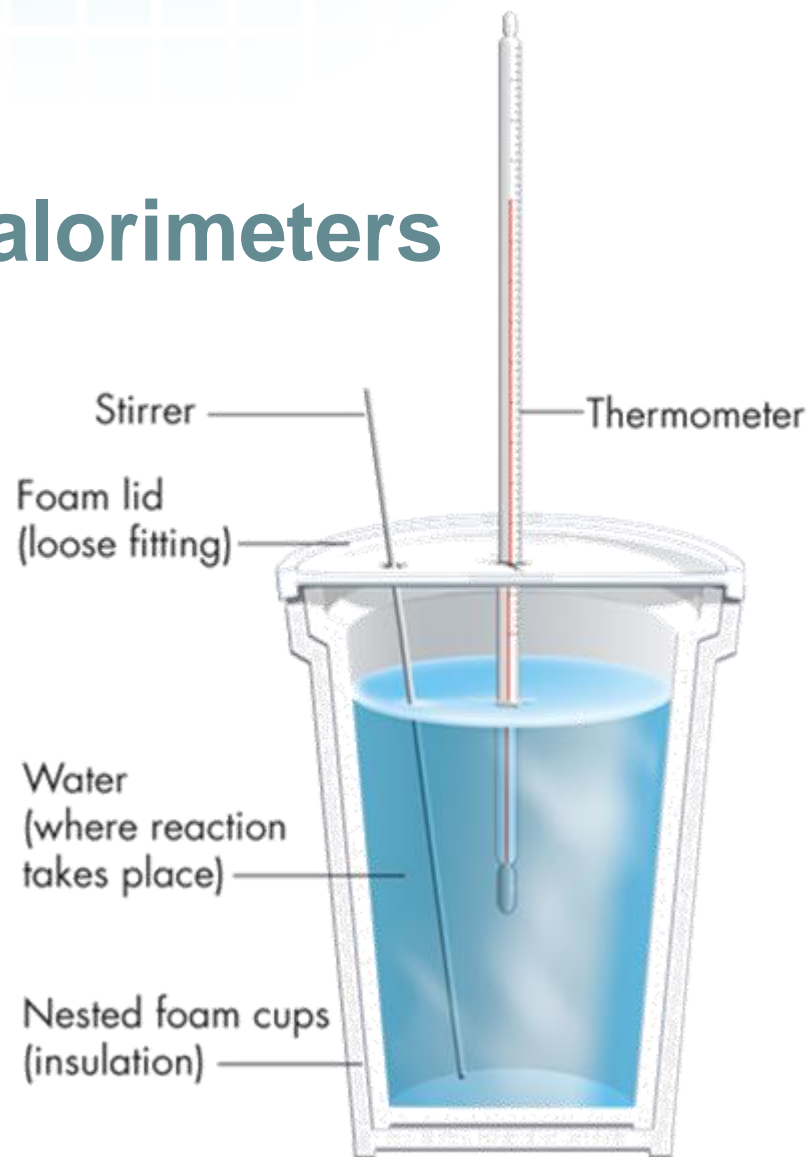
The value of ΔH of a reaction can be determined by measuring the heat flow of the reaction at constant pressure.

- In this textbook, the terms *heat* and *enthalpy change* are used interchangeably.
- In other words, $q = \Delta H$.

17.2 Measuring and Expressing Enthalpy Changes > Calorimetry

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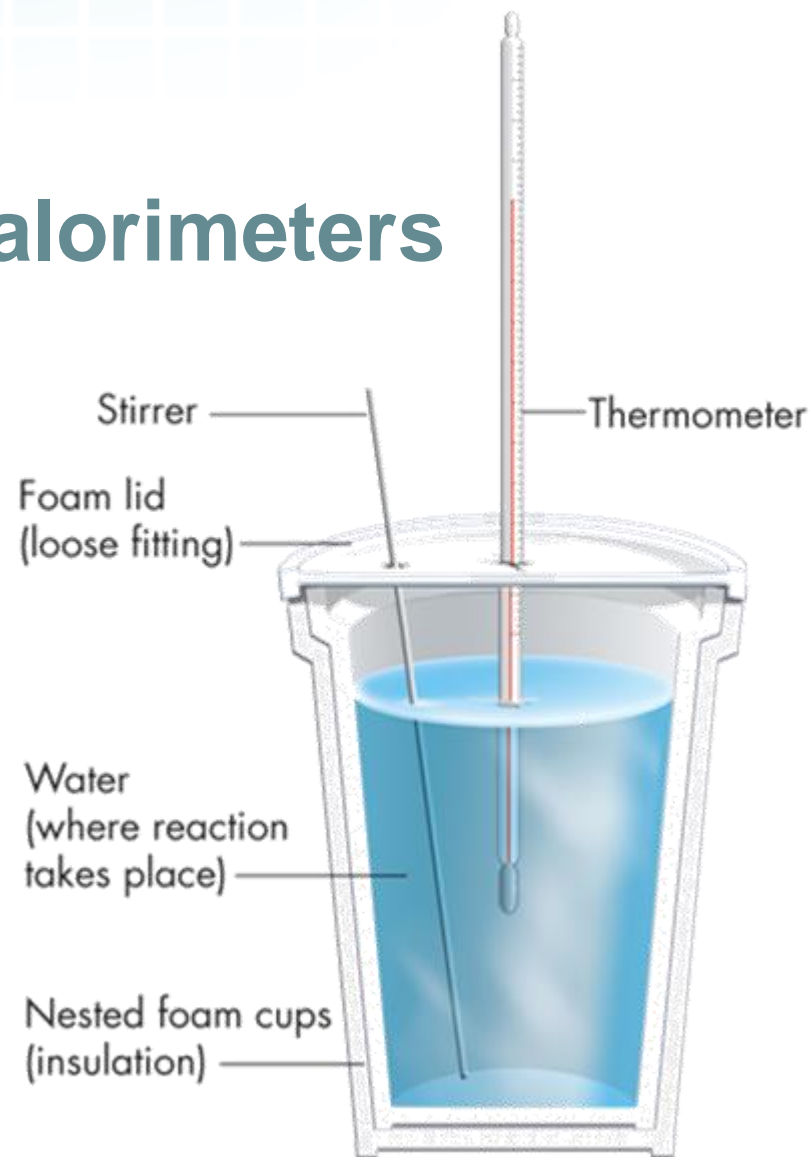
- To measure the enthalpy change for a reaction in aqueous solution in a foam cup calorimeter, dissolve the reacting chemicals (the system) in known volumes of water (the surroundings).



17.2 Measuring and Expressing Enthalpy Changes > Calorimetry

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- Measure the initial temperature of each solution, and mix the solutions in the foam cup.
- After the reaction is complete, measure the final temperature of the mixed solutions.

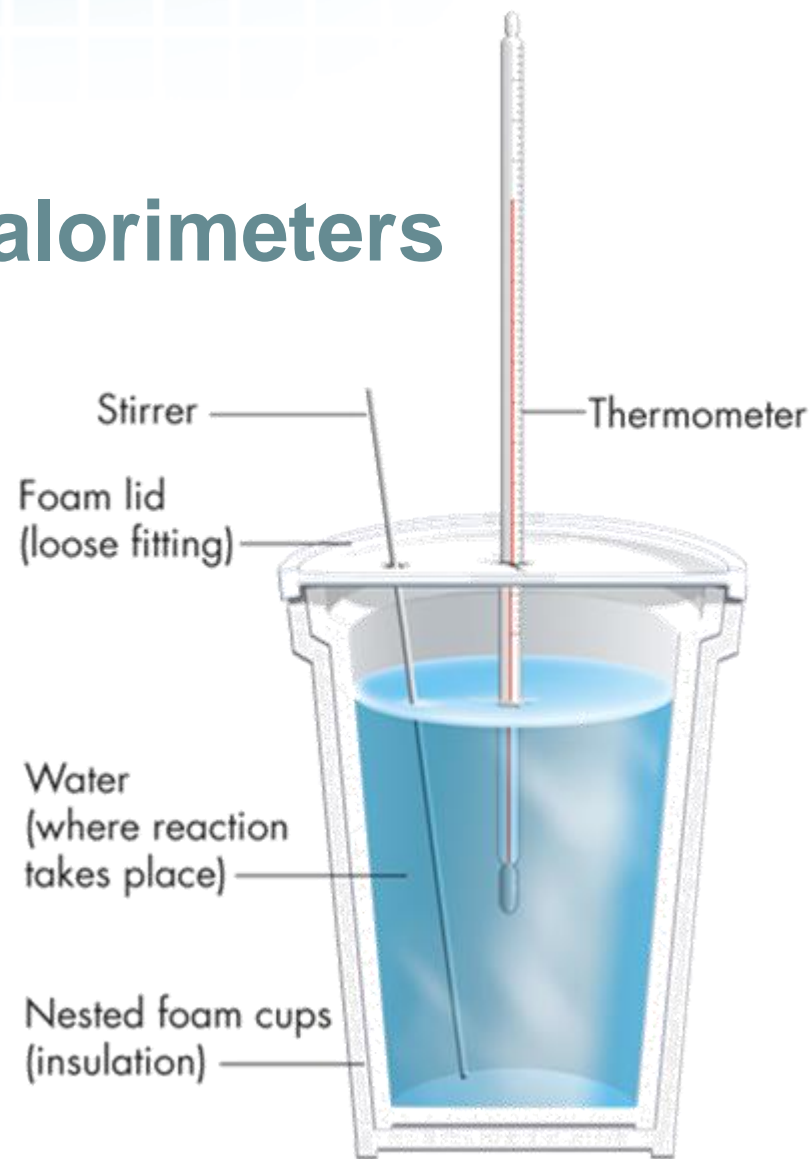


17.2 Measuring and Expressing Enthalpy Changes > Calorimetry

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You can calculate the heat absorbed or released by the surroundings (q_{surr}) using the formula for the specific heat, the initial and final temperatures, and the heat capacity of water.

$$q_{\text{surr}} = m \times C \times \Delta T$$

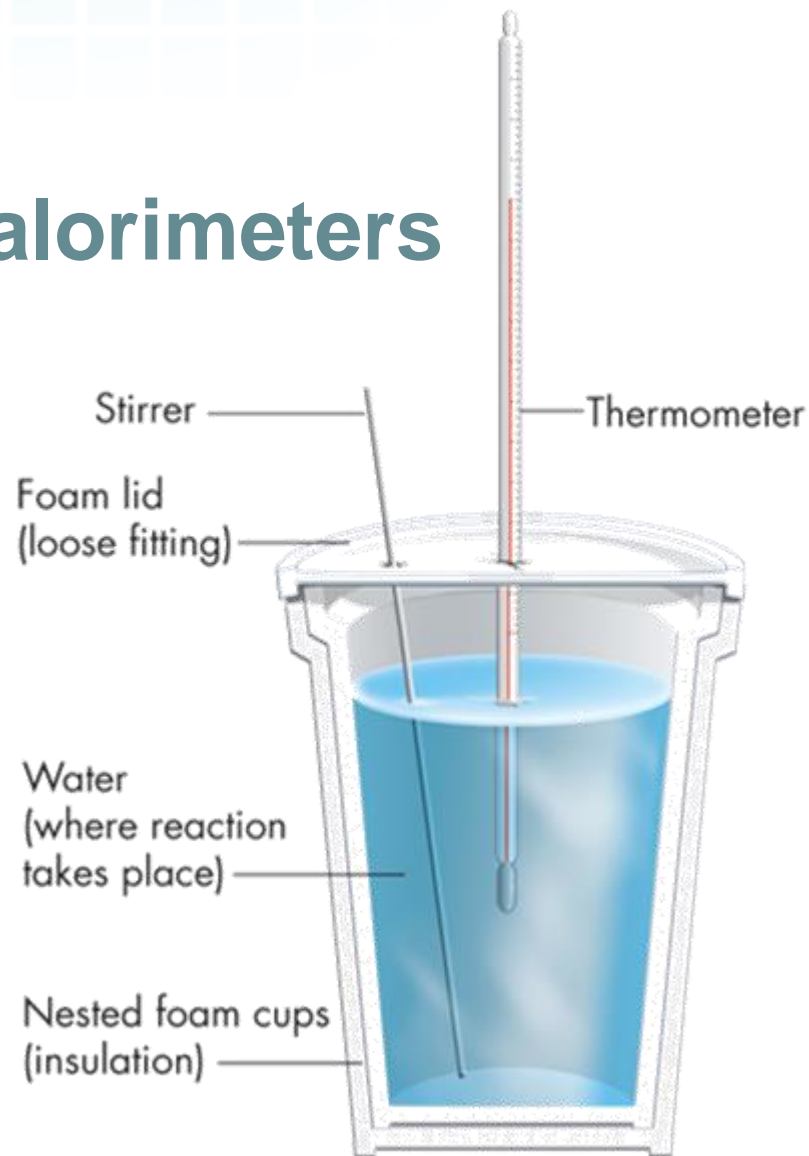


17.2 Measuring and Expressing Enthalpy Changes > Calorimetry

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$$q_{\text{surr}} = m \times C \times \Delta T$$

- m is the mass of the water.
- C is the specific heat of water.
- $\Delta T = T_f - T_i$

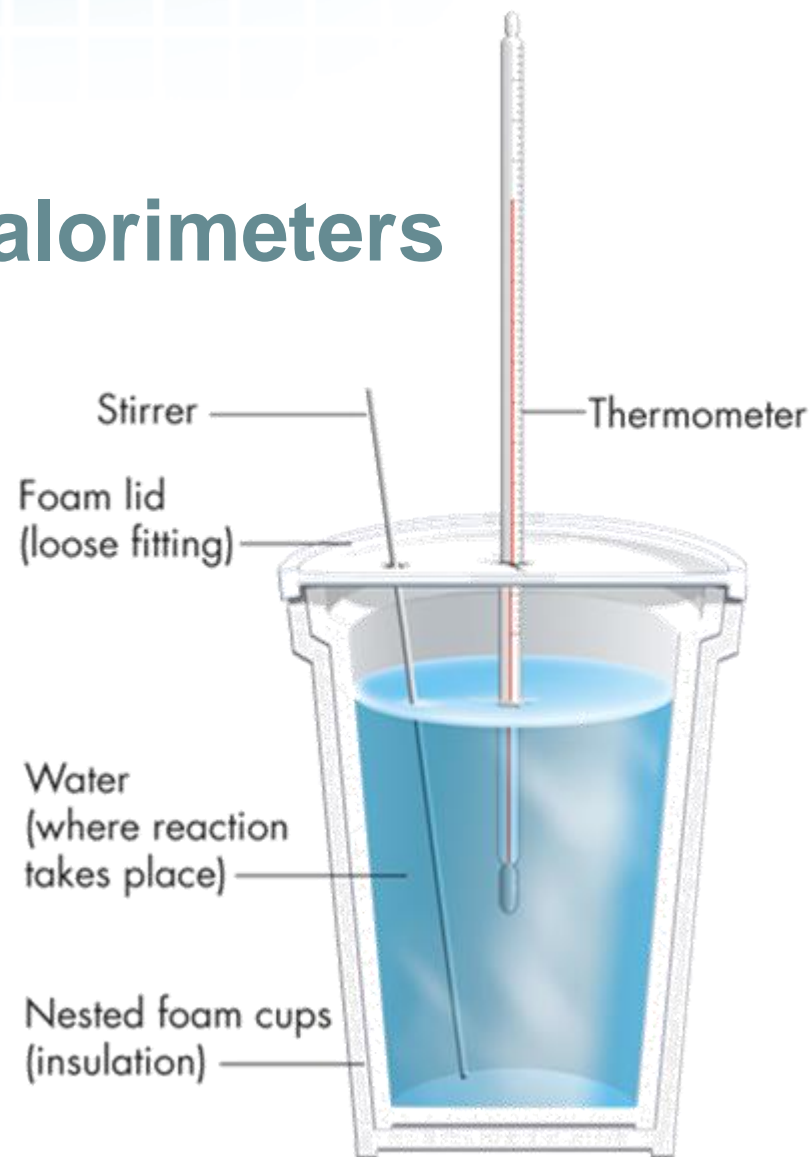


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The heat absorbed by the surroundings is equal to, but has the opposite sign of, the heat released by the system.

$$q_{\text{surr}} = -q_{\text{sys}}$$



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The enthalpy change for the reaction (ΔH) can be written as follows:

$$q_{\text{sys}} = \Delta H = -q_{\text{surr}} = -m \times C \times \Delta T$$

- The sign of ΔH is positive for an endothermic reaction and negative for an exothermic reaction.