

Types of Indicators

Indicators are divided into two types:—

- i) Natural indicators ii) Artificial indicators

Natural Indicators

The indicators which are available in nature are called natural indicators.

e.g. litmus, turmeric, china rose petals (Gudhal), etc.

Litmus :— The most commonly used natural indicator is litmus.

i) It is available in the form of a solution or in the form of strips of paper, known as litmus paper.

ii) It is extracted from lichens. It has a mauve (purple) colour in distilled water.

iii) Generally, it is available as red and blue litmus paper.

Acidic Solution :— It turns blue litmus to red.
e.g. Vinegar, lemon juice, etc.

Basic Solution :— It turns red litmus to blue.
e.g. Soap solution, lime water, etc.

Turmeric :— It is another natural indicator.

It is the most common indicator used in our home.

→ The yellow substance in turmeric is called curcumin.

The colour of curcumin changes to red when treated with a base.

In basic :— A substance which changes the yellow colour of the turmeric stain to brownish red is basic in nature.

In acidic :— A substance which reverses the brownish red stain to its original yellow colour is acidic in nature.