
DECOMPOSITION



A DECOMPOSITION REACTION INVOLVES THE BREAKING DOWN OF A CHEMICAL COMPOUND INTO ELEMENTS OR SIMPLER COMPOUNDS. IT IS SOMETIMES DEFINED AS THE OPPOSITE OF A SYNTHESIS REACTION. THEY CAN OCCUR SPONTANEOUSLY, OR BE INITIATED BY HEAT, A CATALYST, OR ELECTROLYSIS. AN EXAMPLE IS THE DECOMPOSITION OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE INTO WATER & OXYGEN.

