

Hardness Testing Methods

Cheat Sheet

Properties		Brinell	Rockwell	Vickers
Material	Metals and alloys	✓	✓	✓
	Ceramics	✗	✗	✓
	Films, coatings	—	—	✓
Specific property to measure	Macrohardness	✓	✓	✓
	Microhardness	✗	✗	✓
	Indentation hardness	✓	✓	—
	Rebound hardness	✗	✗	✗
Sample Geometry and Size	Flat, large	✓	✓	✓
	Small, thin	—	✗	✓
	Curved, irregular	✗	—	—
Load Requirements	High loads	✓	✓	✓
	Low loads	✗	✓	✓
Test Accuracy and Precision	High accuracy and precision	✓	—	✓
	Moderate accuracy and precision	✓	✓	✓
Equipment Availability and Cost	Commonly available	✓	✓	✓
	Specialized equipment	✗	✗	✗

Key ✓ Recommended — Possible ✗ Not recommended