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## **Residual Soils**

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## **Synonyms**

Alteration products; Lateritic soils; Saprolites; Weathering products

## **Definition**

Residual soil is the material resulting from the *in situ* weathering of the parent rock.

Residual soils are distributed throughout many regions of the world, such as Africa, South Asia, Australia, Southeastern North America, Central and South America, and considerable regions of Europe. The largest areas and thickness of these soils occur normally in humid tropical regions, such as Brazil, Nigeria, South India, Singapore, and the Philippines.

## **Characteristics**

According to Duarte (2002), the diversity exhibited by residual soils is due, not so much to the lithology of the original rock, but mainly to external factors such as climate, topography, and vegetation cover; factors that provide distinctive weathering processes and, consequently, distinctive weathering products – the residual soils. At the first International Conference on Tropical Residual Soils, it was proposed to divide such soils into...

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