Glossary

absolute pressure the sum of gauge pressure and atmospheric pressure adhesive forces the attractive forces between molecules of different types

Archimedes' principle the buoyant force on an object equals the weight of the fluid it displaces

buoyant force the net upward force on any object in any fluid

capillary action the tendency of a fluid to be raised or lowered in a narrow tube

cohesive forces the attractive forces between molecules of the same type

contact angle the angle θ between the tangent to the liquid surface and the surface

density the mass per unit volume of a substance or object

diastolic pressure minimum arterial blood pressure; indicator for the fluid balance

diastolic pressure the minimum blood pressure in the artery

fluids liquids and gases; a fluid is a state of matter that yields to shearing forces

gauge pressure the pressure relative to atmospheric pressure

glaucoma condition caused by the buildup of fluid pressure in the eye

intraocular pressure fluid pressure in the eye

micturition reflex stimulates the feeling of needing to urinate, triggered by bladder pressure

Pascal's Principle a change in pressure applied to an enclosed fluid is transmitted undiminished to all portions of the fluid and to the walls of its container

pressure the force per unit area perpendicular to the force, over which the force acts

pressure the weight of the fluid divided by the area supporting it

specific gravity the ratio of the density of an object to a fluid (usually water)

surface tension the cohesive forces between molecules which cause the surface of a liquid to contract to the smallest possible surface area

systolic pressure maximum arterial blood pressure; indicator for the blood flow

systolic pressure the maximum blood pressure in the artery