



Potential Energy

The second type is potential energy. This type is stored. It comes from position. Is nothing moving? The energy is stored. No work is being done. The energy is ready to be used later.

Potential energy can come from gravity. Think of a ball at the top of a hill. Think of all the water behind a dam. They both have energy. If you let them, the ball and the water will move. This is because the energy comes from where they are.

Potential energy can be in small things, too. Chemical (KEM-ih-kuhl) energy has it. It is stored in the bonds between atoms. It comes out when the atoms move. Nuclear (NOO-klee-er) energy also has it. It is stored in the nucleus (NOO-klee-us) of an atom. It comes out when the nucleus is broken apart.

Comprehension Question

What is the difference between the two types of energy?