

Figure 1. The etch rate of SiO₂ samples exposed to 15 Torr H_2O and various HF pressures for 5 seconds at 30.4°C. As the HF pressure is increased, the etch rate increases.

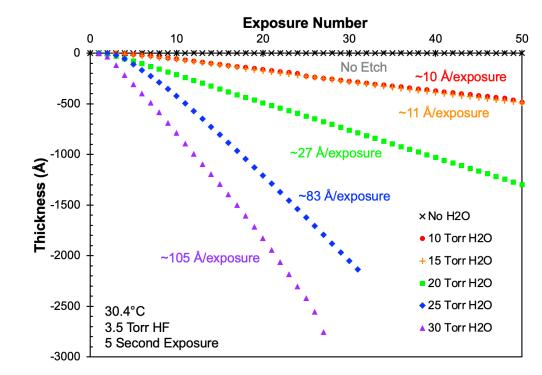


Figure 2. The etch rate of SiO₂ samples exposed to various H_2O pressures and 3.5 Torr HF for 5 seconds at 30.4°C. When there is no water inside the chamber, there is no etching. As the water pressure is increased, the etch rate increases.