Is chemistry important for fine fragrance perfumers?

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Perfumery Tip

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Art-Science Ratio:

Fine Fragrance is
80% Art
20% Science

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Structure

Fine fragrances don't require extensive chemistry; they are products meant to be smelled, with Hydroalcoholic base in most cases. Hence, it's not a big problem.

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Basic chemistry stability examples :

- Aldehyde + Primary Amine results in Schiff base, leading to fragrance discoloration (if in high amounts).
- Vanillin, Indole, Eugenol, and some other materials discolor.

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You don't need a professional chemistry background to understand these cases; you can simply jot them down and remember them during formulation.

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The basic chemistry you need to know as a fine fragrance perfumer:

- Understanding what Vapor pressure, Molecular weight, and Boiling point are.
- Understanding what Alcohol, Ester, Aldehyde, Ketone, and Acid are.
- Understanding irritants and how to use IFRA & EU regulations.

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