

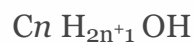
Alcohols and Carboxylic Acids

Alcohols

Functional Group:



General Formula:



Name	Molecular Formula	Structural Formula
Methanol	$\text{CH}_3 \text{OH}$	$\text{CH}_3 - \text{O} - \text{H}$
Ethanol	$\text{C}_2 \text{H}_5 \text{OH}$	$\text{CH}_3 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{O} - \text{H}$
Propanol	$\text{C}_3 \text{H}_7 \text{OH}$	$\text{CH}_3 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{O} - \text{H}$
Butanol	$\text{C}_4 \text{H}_9 \text{OH}$	$\text{CH}_3 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{O} - \text{H}$

How are Alcohols Synthesised?

Method A: Fermentation of Glucose

- Fermentation: chemical process in which **microorganisms** such as yeast act on glucose to produce ethanol and carbon dioxide.
- Yeast contains **enzymes** that catalyse the breakdown of glucose to form ethanol and carbon dioxide.

Balanced Chemical Equation



with yeast.

Essential Conditions

- Temperature is kept at 37 degrees Celsius
- Absence of oxygen
- Enzymes in yeast

Method B: Hydration of Alkanes

Essential Conditions

- High temperature and pressure (300 degrees Celsius, 60 atm),
- H_3PO_4 catalyst

Physical Properties of Alcohols

- Soluble in water
- Most are liquids at room temperature
- Alcohols with more carbon atoms (12 and above) are solids at room

temperature

The ability to form hydrogen bonds (a type of intermolecular force) allows alcohols to interact with water molecules allowing it dissolves in water. More energy is also required to overcome the hydrogen bonds resulting in higher melting and boiling points of alcohol

Solubility of Alcohols

- Alkanes
 - All alkanes are insoluble in water.
 - Alcohols: solubility decreases as number of carbons in chain increases
- The alkyl group (carbon chain) is non-polar and cannot form hydrogen bonds with water.
- The longer the carbon chain, the more insoluble the alcohol.

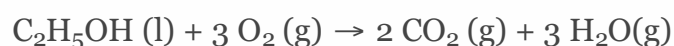
How do Alcohols React?

Alcohols are generally more reactive than alkanes.

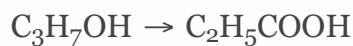
- The C – O and O – H bonds in alcohols are more reactive than the C – C and C – H bonds in alkanes

Combustion of Alcohol

- Like all organic compounds, alcohols undergo combustion in the presence of oxygen and heat to produce **carbon dioxide and steam**.



Oxidation



with acidified KMnO_4

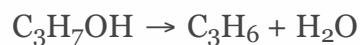
What is the proof that the alcohol has been oxidised?

- Oxygen atom has been added to propanol to form propanoic acid.

What happens if wine is left exposed to air?

- Ethanol in wine is oxidised by aerobic bacteria, forming ethanoic acid.
- This process only happens to ethanol

Dehydration



with concentrated H_3PO_4 catalyst

As a solvent

- Used in paints, varnishes and perfumes.
- Why is alcohol a good solvent?

The structure of alcohol enables interaction with the organic substances which would not have dissolved in water.

The presence of the hydroxyl group allows to form hydrogen bonds readily with other non-organic substances.

As a fuel

- Main constituent in methylated spirit (used in spirit lamps and burners)
- In some countries, it is added to petrol and sold as a "blend".

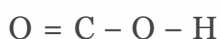
Summary: Chemical Reactions that Yield Ethanol

1. Fermentation of sugar with yeast
2. Addition of steam to alkenes (Hydration)

Carboxylic Acids

Structure of Carboxylic Acids

Functional Group:



General Formula:



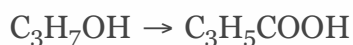
Name	Molecular Formula	Structural Formula
Methanoic Acid	HCOOH	H – COOH
Ethanoic Acid	CH ₃ COOH	CH ₃ –COOH

Name	Molecular Formula	Structural Formula
Propanoic Acid	C ₂ H ₅ COOH	CH ₃ -CH ₂ -COOH
Butanoic Acid	C ₃ H ₇ COOH	CH ₃ -CH ₂ -CH ₂ -COOH

How are Carboxylic Acids Made?

Oxidation of Alcohols

1. Heat alcohol with acidified KMnO₄ solution



with acidified KMnO₄

Physical Properties of Carboxylic Acids

- Soluble in water
- Most are liquids at room temperature

How Do Carboxylic Acids React?

As acids

Ionic Equation of Ethanoic Acid



General Reactions as Acids

- Being weak acids, carboxylic acids react with:

- Metals
- Bases
- Carbonates

Write balanced chemical equations for reactions involving carboxylic acids

- $2 \text{CH}_3\text{COOH (aq)} + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3\text{(aq)} \rightarrow 2 \text{CH}_3\text{COONa (aq)} + \text{H}_2\text{O (l)} + \text{CO}_2\text{(g)}$
- $2 \text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{COOH (aq)} + \text{CaO (s)} \rightarrow (\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{COO})_2\text{Ca (aq)} + \text{H}_2\text{O (l)}$
- $\text{HCOOH (aq)} + \text{KOH (aq)} \rightarrow \text{HCOOK(aq)} + \text{H}_2\text{O(l)}$

Esterification - Introduction to Esters

What are esters?

- Sweet aroma
- Used in food and perfume industry

Homologous Series - Esters

Ethyl Ethanoate



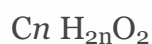
Methyl Propanoate



Functional Group



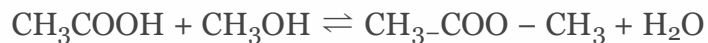
General Formula



Name

-yl -anoate

Synthesis of Esters



with concentrated H_2SO_4 catalyst.

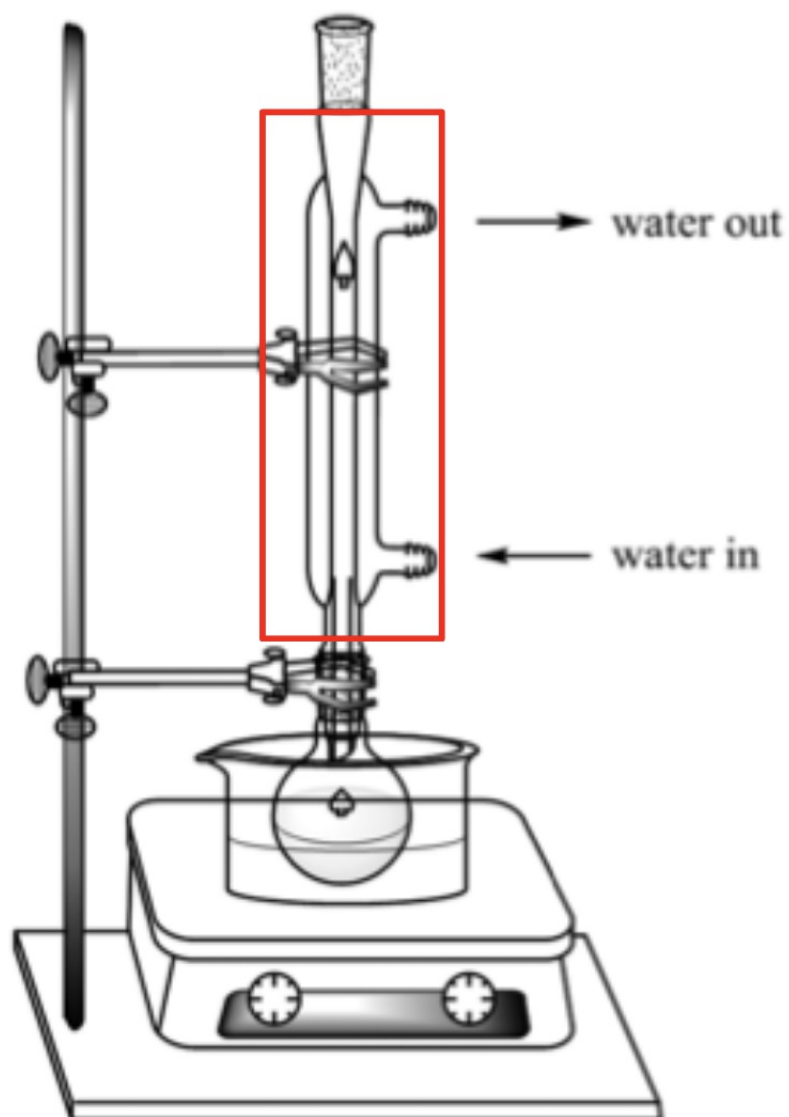
Carboxylic acid + alcohol \rightleftharpoons ester + water

Experimental Set-up

- The carboxylic acid and alcohol are heated under **reflux** in the presence of a **catalyst** (a few drops of concentrated sulfuric acid).

Which apparatus is the condenser? purpose?

- To prevent volatile organic reagents from escaping.
- **Any vapour will condense on the cool surface of the condenser and flow back into the flask.**



Hydrolysis of Esters

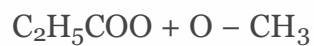
- Esters can be **hydrolysed** (broken down by water) to form original carboxylic acid and alcohol
- Warm with dilute acid

1. Look out for the C – O bond in the functional group of ester

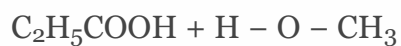
Could not parse

- methyl propanoate

2. Separate out the molecule



3. Add $-\text{O} - \text{H}$ to the $\text{C} = \text{O}$, to form an acid. Add $-\text{O} - \text{H}$ to the remaining part of the compound to form an alcohol.



- propanoic acid + methanol

Note

Why does the use of dilute acid favour the reverse reaction?

Hint: What product is formed in the forward reaction?

The presence of water shifts the equilibrium to the left, hence a dilute acid solution would favour the reverse reaction.