Table 1: Principal IR Absorptions for Certain Functional Groups

Functional Group Names & Example compounds	Absorption Ranges(cm ⁻¹) [Look for a single absorption in these regions, unless stated otherwise.]	Type of Vibration causing IR absorption
Alkanes: H	3000-2800 (Note: The absorptions can be seen as several distinct peaks in this region.)	H-C-H Asymmetric & Symmetric Stretch
	1500-1440	H-C-H Bend
Alkenes: H C H 1-Propene	3100-3000	C=C-H Asymmetric Stretch
	1675-1600	C-C=C Symmetric Stretch
Alkynes: HC≡C—CH ₃ Propyne	3300-3200	≡c−H Stretch
	2200-2100	C≡C Stretch
Aromatic Rings: H C C Benzene H C H H C H H C C H H	3100-3000	C=C-H Asymmetric Stretch
	1600-1580	C-C=C Symmetric Stretch
	1500-1450	C-C=C Asymmetric Stretch
Phenols & Alcohols: H C C C C H H C C C C H H H H H H H H	3600-3100	Hydrogen-bonded O-H Stretch
	(Note: Phenols <u>MUST</u> have Aromatic Ring Absorptions too.)	(This peak usually appears much broader than the other IR absorptions.
Carboxylic Acids: O H C OH Formic Acid	3400-2400 (This peak always covers the entire region with a VERY BROAD peak.)	Hydrogen-bonded O-H Stretch [Note: This peak can obscure other peaks in this region.]
	1730-1650	C=O Stretch
Ketones: O I C C CH ₃ Acetone	1750-1625	C=O Stretch
Aldehydes: O II C H ₃ C H Ethanal	1750-1625	C=O Stretch
	2850-2800	C-H Stretch off C=O
	2750-2700	C-H Stretch off C=O

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Esters: O H C O CH 3 Methyl Formate	1755-1650	C=O Stretch
	(1300-1000)	(C-O Stretch)
Ethers: O Diethyl Ether (aka-Ethyl Ether)	(1300-1000)	(C-O Stretch)
Amines—Primary: N H Ethylamine H H	3500-3100 (TWO PEAKS!)	N-H Stretch
	1640-1560	N-H Bend
Amines—Secondary: N-Methylethylamine H	3500-3100 (ONE PEAK!)	N-H Stretch
	1550-1450	N-H Bend
Nitriles: H C-C≡N Methanenitrile	2300-2200	C≡N Stretch
Nitro Groups: O III+ H ₃ C O Nitromethane	1600-1500	N=O Stretch
(Note: Both peaks are <200 cm-1 apart.)	1400-1300	N=O Bend
Amides: O II C NH ₂ Methanamide	3500-3100	N-H Stretch (similar to amines)
	1670-1600	C=O Stretch
	1640-1550	N-H Bend