7.0 Carboxyl Acids, Esters, & Fats

Carboxyl Acids

A carboxyl group is a carbon atom that is <u>double-bonded</u> to one <u>oxygen</u> atom and <u>single-bonded</u> to a <u>hydroxyl</u> group. It is often written in condensed form as -CO₂H or -COOH.

A carboxylic acid is a weak organic acid containing at least one carboxyl group.

Naming Carboxyl Acids

- Use the suffix —oic acid
- Number the parent chain so that the carboxyl group is on carbon one

Examples: Name the following.

(a) O (b) O (c) CICH₂CH₂C OH

2-Methylpentanoic acid 3-Chloropropanoic acid

Example: Draw 4-ethyl-3- methylheptanoic acid.

• When a carboxyl group is added to a ring the suffix <u>-carboxylic acid</u> is added to the name of the cyclic compound. The ring carbon attached to the carboxyl group is given the #1 location number.

Cyclopentanecarboxylic acid

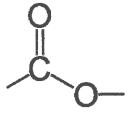
Example: Draw 4-phenyl-6- cyclobutylhexanoic acid.

• If an acid has two carboxyl groups use the suffix <u>—dioic acid</u>. The location numbers for both carboxyl groups are omitted because both groups are expected to occupy the ends of the parent chain.

Butanedioic acid Propanedioic acid

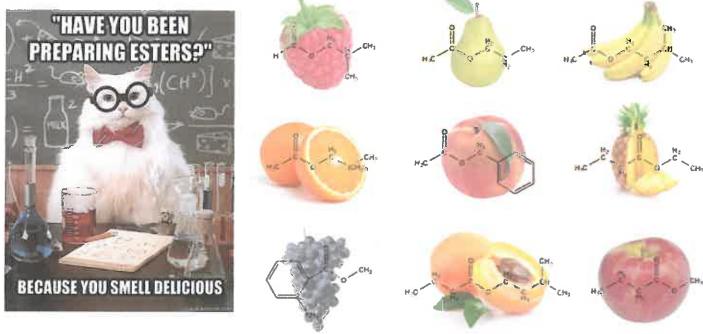
Esters

An ester is an organic compound that contains a carbonyl group bonded to a <u>second oxygen</u> atom which is bonded to another carbon atom. The general formula -COO-



Esters are known for their distinctive odors and are commonly used for food aroma and

fragrances.



Esters are formed through reactions between an acid and an alcohol. This process, called <u>esterification</u>, reacts alcohols and carboxylic acids to make esters while eliminating water.

An example of esterification is the reaction of acetic acid with an alcohol, which yields an acetic ester and water.

$$R = C = 0 + H + H = 0 + R' = R' + H_2C$$
a carboxylic an alcohol an ester

Naming Esters

(Where R and R' are general hydrocarbon groups)

- Named based on the alcohols and acids they are made of.
- Esters are named as if the alkyl chain from the alcohol is a <u>substituent</u>. No number is assigned to this alkyl chain.

• This is followed by the name of the parent chain from the carboxylic acid part of the ester with the ending <u>oate</u>.

ethyl propanoate propyl methanoate

Examples: Name the following.

Fats and Oils

Fats and oils are <u>triglycerides</u> – esters (acids bonded to alcohol) made from long chains of fatty acids. A triglyceride means that three acids are bonded to an alcohol.

RCOOH
$$H_2C$$
—OH H_2C —OC—R

R'COOH H_2C —OH H_2C —OH H_2C —OC—R' H_2C —OC—R'

Three fatty acids Glycerol Triglyceride

Fats are generally solid at room temperature and high in saturated fatty acids. Oils meanwhile are generally liquid at room temperature and low in saturated fatty acids.

Saponification

Fats and oils can be heated in the presence of a strong base to make <u>soap</u> (sodium or potassium salts of fatty acids). This process is called saponification.

Essentially, saponification is a <u>reverse</u> esterification. Esters can be cleaved back into a carboxylic acid and an alcohol by reaction with water and a base.