



Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry

CHEM 109

For Students of Health Colleges

Credit hrs.: (2+1)

King Saud University

College of Science, Chemistry Department

CHEM 109

CHAPTER 7. CARBOXYLIC ACIDS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES

Learning Objectives



At the end of this chapter, students will able to:

- Identify and name simple carboxylic acids.
- Recognize the properties (structure, physical and chemical properties) of carboxylic acid .
- Suggest preparation reactions from primary alcohols and from Grignard reagents and CO_2 .
- Predict the product of the reduction of a carboxylic acid and give the reagents required to perform this reaction.
- Identify carboxylic acid derivatives as esters, amides, acid halides and acid anhydrides
- Predict the products that will be formed when a carboxylic acid derivative is treated with an alcohol or amine.
- Give the reagents required for the interconversion of carboxylic acid derivatives

Structure of Carboxylic Acids

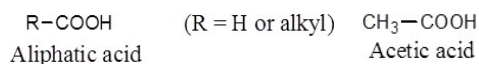
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- The functional group common to all carboxylic acids is the **carboxyl group**.
The name is a contraction of the parts: the **carbonyl** and **hydroxyl** groups.
- The **general formula for a carboxylic acid** can be written in expanded or abbreviated forms.

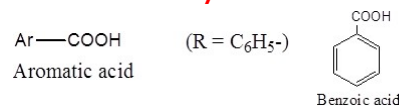


- Depending on whether an **R** or an **Ar** residue is attached to the carboxyl group; **Carboxylic acids are classified** as;

- Aliphatic Carboxylic Acids.**



- Aromatic Carboxylic Acids.**



- Fatty acids.**

Long straight-chain carboxylic acids with even numbers of carbons, which were first isolated from fats and waxes.

Nomenclature of Carboxylic Acids

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Common Names

- The **common names** of carboxylic acids all end in **-ic acid**.
- These names usually come from some Latin or Greek word that indicates the original source of the acid.
- Common name**, substituents are located with Greek letters, beginning with the α -carbon atom.

IUPAC System

- We replace the final **e** in the name of the corresponding alkane with the suffix **-oic** and add the word **acid**.



- IUPAC system**, the chain is numbered beginning with the carboxyl carbon atom, and substituents are located in the usual way.

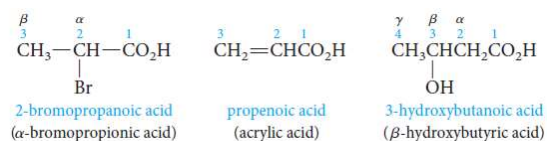
Nomenclature of Carboxylic Acids

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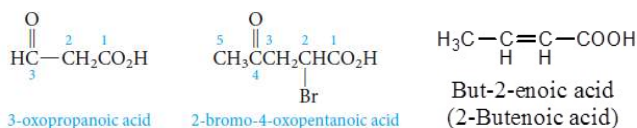
| Carbon atoms | Formula | Source | Common name | IUPAC name |
|--------------|--|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | HCOOH | ants (Latin, <i>formica</i>) | formic acid | methanoic acid |
| 2 | CH ₃ COOH | vinegar (Latin, <i>acetum</i>) | acetic acid | ethanoic acid |
| 3 | CH ₃ CH ₂ COOH | milk (Greek, <i>protos pion</i> , first fat) | propionic acid | propanoic acid |
| 4 | CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ COOH | butter (Latin, <i>butyrum</i>) | butyric acid | butanoic acid |
| 5 | CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₃ COOH | valerian root (Latin, <i>valere</i> , to be strong) | valeric acid | pentanoic acid |
| 6 | CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₄ COOH | goats (Latin, <i>caper</i>) | caproic acid | hexanoic acid |
| 7 | CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₅ COOH | vine blossom (Greek, <i>oenanthe</i>) | enanthic acid | heptanoic acid |
| 8 | CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₆ COOH | goats (Latin, <i>caper</i>) | caprylic acid | octanoic acid |
| 9 | CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₇ COOH | pelargonium (an herb with stork-shaped seed capsules; Greek, <i>pelargos</i> , stork) | pelargonic acid | nonanoic acid |
| 10 | CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₈ COOH | goats (Latin, <i>caper</i>) | capric acid | decanoic acid |

Nomenclature of Carboxylic Acids

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- The carboxyl group has priority over alcohol, aldehyde, or ketone functionality in naming.
- The prefix **oxo-** is used to locate the carbonyl group of the aldehyde or ketone.

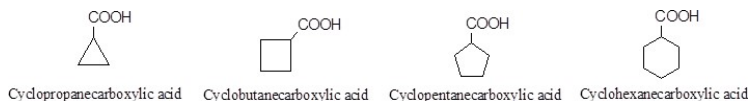


Nomenclature of Carboxylic Acids

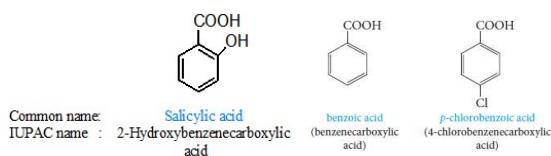
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➤ Cycloalkane carboxylic acid

When the carboxyl group is attached to a ring, the ending **-carboxylic acid** is added to the name of the parent **cycloalkane**. (i.e. **Cycloalkanecarboxylic acid**)



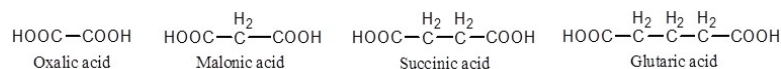
➤ Aromatic acids are named by attaching the suffix **-oic acid** or **-ic acid** to an appropriate prefix derived from the aromatic hydrocarbon.



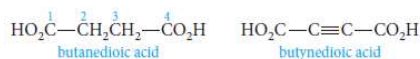
Nomenclature of Carboxylic Acids

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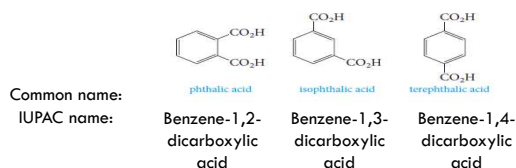
➤ **Dicarboxylic acids** (acids that contain two carboxyl groups) are known almost exclusively by their common names.



➤ **Aliphatic dicarboxylic acids** are given the suffix **-dioic acid** in the IUPAC system.



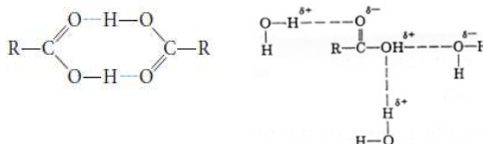
➤ The three **benzenedicarboxylic acids** are generally known by their common names.



Physical Properties of Acids

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- **Carboxylic acids** are polar and they form hydrogen bonds with themselves or with other molecules.
- **Carboxylic acids form dimer**, with the individual units held together by two hydrogen bonds between electron-rich oxygens and electron-poor hydrogens.



Boiling Points

Therefore, they have high boiling points for their molecular weights-higher even those of comparable alcohols.

Solubility in water

Hydrogen bonding also explains the water solubility of the lower molecular weight carboxylic acids.

- The first four aliphatic acids (formic through butyric) are completely miscible in water.
- Aromatic acids are insoluble in water.

Physical Properties of Acids

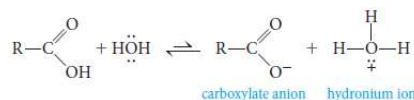
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| Structure | Name | Mol. Wt. | b.p. °C | Solubility in H ₂ O at 25°C |
|--|--------------------------|----------|---------|--|
| HCOOH | Formic acid | 46 | 100 | Very soluble |
| CH ₃ CH ₂ OH | Ethyl alcohol | 46 | 78 | Very soluble |
| CH ₃ COOH | Acetic acid | 60 | 118 | Very soluble |
| CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH | <i>n</i> -Propyl alcohol | 60 | 97 | Very soluble |
| CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₃ COOH | Valeric acid | 102 | 187 | 4.0 g/100 g H ₂ O |
| CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₄ CH ₂ OH | <i>n</i> -Hexyl alcohol | 102 | 156 | 0.6 g/100 g H ₂ O |
| Ph-COOH | Benzoic acid | 122 | 250 | Insoluble |
| Ph-CH ₂ CH ₂ OH | 3-Phenylethanol | 122 | 250 | Insoluble |

Acid Strength and Structure

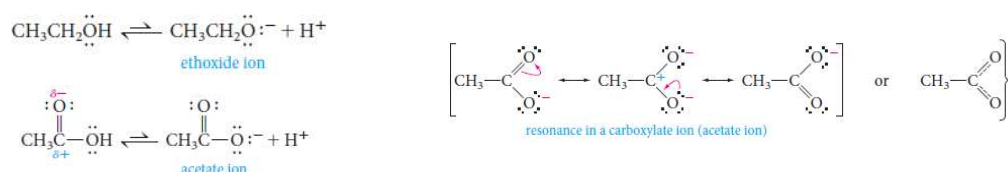
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- **Carboxylic acids** (RCOOH) dissociate in water, yielding a carboxylate anion (RCOO⁻) and hydronium ion.



Why carboxylic acids are more acidic than alcohols?

- In **ethoxide ion**, the negative charge is localized on a single oxygen atom.
- In **acetate ion**, on the other hand, the negative charge can be delocalized through **resonance**.

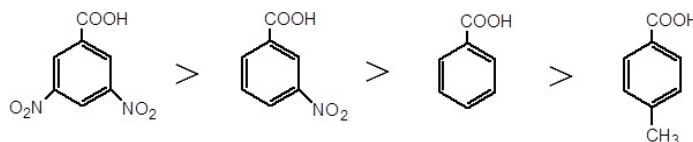


Acid Strength and Structure

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Effect of Structure on Acidity; the Inductive Effect

- Acidities can vary depending on what other groups are attached to the molecule.
- Recall that **electron-withdrawing groups (-I) enhance acidity**, and **electron-releasing groups (+I) reduce acidity**.
This effect relays charge through bonds, by displacing bonding electrons toward electronegative atoms, or away from electropositive atoms.



Acid Strength and Structure

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Effect of Structure on Acidity; the Inductive Effect

- Formic acid is a substantially stronger acid than acetic acid.

This suggests that the methyl group is more electron-releasing (hence anion-destabilizing and acidity-reducing) than hydrogen.



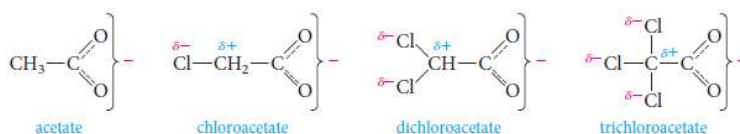
- Example:** acetic acid with those of mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acids.
Comparison of acid strengths of acetic Acid and chlorinated acetic acids



Acid Strength and Structure

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Effect of Structure on Acidity; the Inductive Effect



The more chlorines, the greater the effect and the greater the strength of the acid.

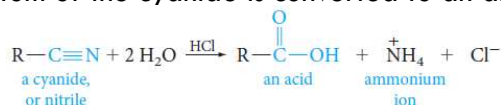
Preparation of Carboxylic Acids

1) Hydrolysis of Cyanides (Nitriles)

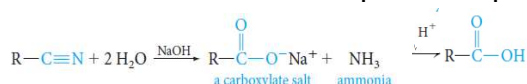
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- The reaction requires either acid or base.

➤ **In acid**, the nitrogen atom of the cyanide is converted to an ammonium ion.



➤ **In base**, the nitrogen atom is converted to ammonia and the organic product is the carboxylate salt, which must be neutralized in a separate step to give the acid.



- Alkyl cyanides** are generally made from the corresponding alkyl halide.

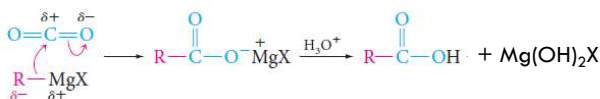


2) Reaction of Grignard Reagents with Carbon Dioxide (Carbonation of Grignard Reagent)

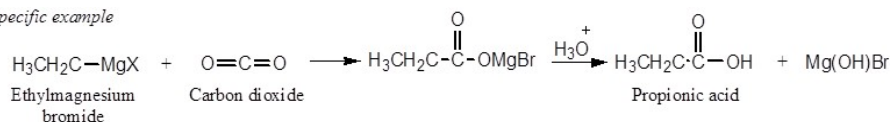
Preparation of Carboxylic Acids

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- Grignard reagents** add to the carbonyl group of carbon dioxide to give acids, after protonation of the intermediate carboxylate salt with a mineral acid like aqueous HCl.
- The acid obtained has one more carbon atom** (the reaction provides a way to increase the length of a carbon chain).



Specific example

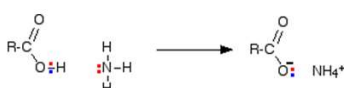
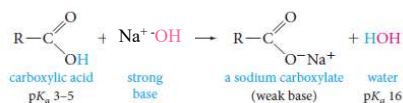


Reactions of Carboxylic Acids

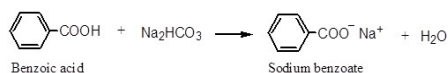
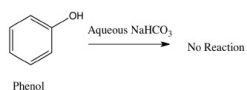
1) Reactions with Bases: Salt Formation

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- Carboxylic acids, when treated with a strong base, form **carboxylate salts**.



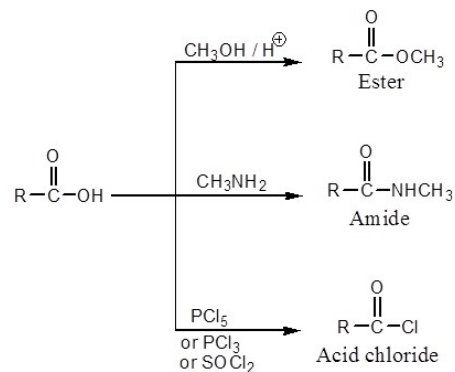
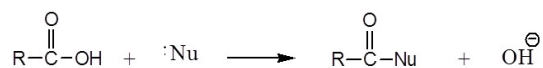
- Examples.**



Reactions of Carboxylic Acids

2) Nucleophilic Substitution Reactions

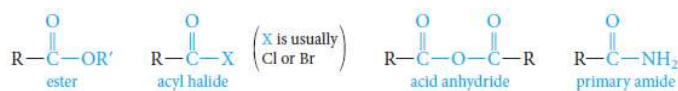
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Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

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- **Carboxylic acid derivatives** are compounds in which the hydroxyl part of the carboxyl group is replaced by various other groups.



- All acid derivatives can be hydrolyzed to the corresponding carboxylic acid.

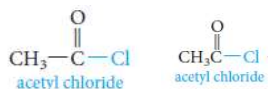
| Acid derivative | HOH (hydrolysis) |
|--|--|
| $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{Cl} \\ \text{acyl halide} \end{array} $ | $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{OH} + \text{HCl} \end{array} $ |
| $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \quad \text{O} \\ \parallel \quad \parallel \\ \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}-\text{R} \\ \text{acid anhydride} \end{array} $ | $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ 2 \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{OH} \end{array} $ |
| $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{R}' \\ \text{ester} \end{array} $ | $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{OH} + \text{R}'\text{OH} \end{array} $ |
| $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{NH}_2 \\ \text{amide} \end{array} $ | $ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{R}-\text{C}-\text{OH} + \text{NH}_3 \end{array} $ |
| <i>Main organic product</i> | <i>acid</i> |

Acid Chloride

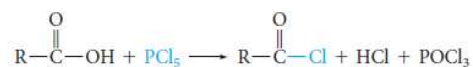
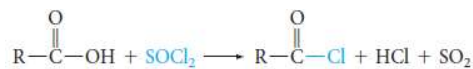
Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

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- **Acyl chlorides** have the general formula RCOCl.
- **Acyl chlorides** are more common and less expensive than bromides or iodides.
- **Nomenclature:**
Acyl chlorides, or acid chlorides, are named by replacing the -ic acid ending of the parent acid by -yl chloride.



- **Preparation:**
They can be prepared from acids by reaction with thionyl chloride or phosphorous pentachloride.

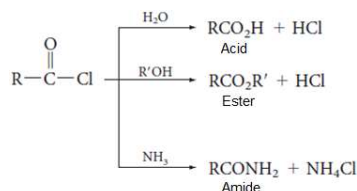


Acid Chloride

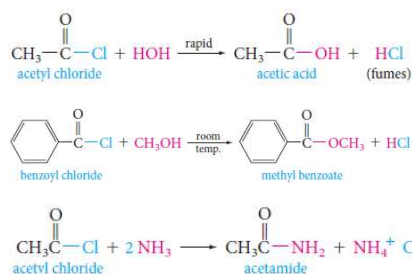
Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

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- **Reactions:** They can react rapidly with most nucleophile.



- **Examples:**

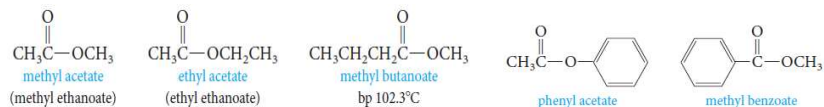


Esters

Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

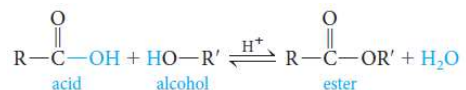
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- **Esters** are derived from acids by replacing the $-\text{OH}$ group by an $-\text{OR}$ group and have the general formula $\text{R}'\text{COOR}$.
- **Nomenclature:**
 - They are named in a manner analogous to carboxylic acid salts.
 - The **R part of the $-\text{OR}$ group is name first**, followed by the name of the acid, with the **-ic acid** ending changed to **-ate**.



- **Preparation:**

When a carboxylic acid and an alcohol are heated in the presence of an acid catalyst (HCl or H_2SO_4), an equilibrium is established with the ester and water.



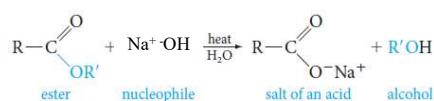
Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

Esters

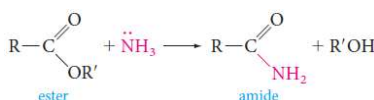
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Reactions

- Saponification**; esters are commonly hydrolyzed with base.



- Ammonia converts esters to **amides**.



Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

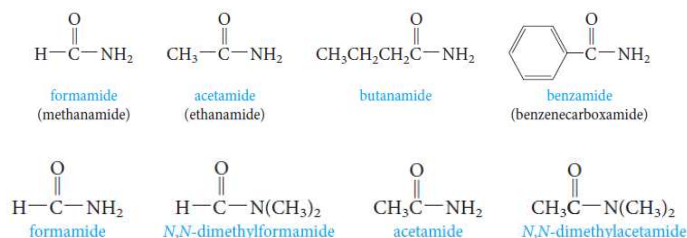
Amides

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- **Amides** are the least reactive of the common carboxylic acid derivatives.
- Primary amides have general formula **RCONH₂**.

Nomenclature:

Amides are named by replacing the -oic acid ending of the acid name with the -amide ending, This will be either for the common or the IUPAC name.



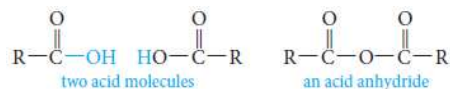
Acid Anhydrides

Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

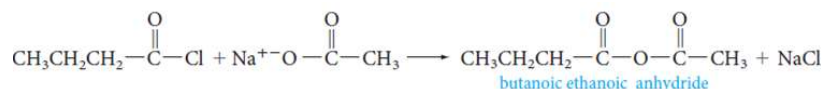
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➤ Preparation

- **Acid anhydrides** are derived from acids by removing water from two carboxyl groups under heating and effect of suitable catalyst.



- **Anhydrides** can also be prepared from acid chlorides and carboxylate salts. *This method is used for preparing anhydrides derived from two different carboxylic acids (mixed anhydrides).*



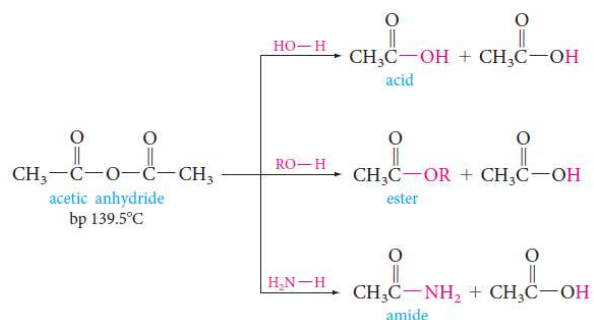
Acid Anhydrides

Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

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➤ Reactions

- **Anhydrides** undergo **nucleophilic acyl substitution reactions** (They are more reactive than esters, but less reactive than acyl halides).



Uses of Carboxylic Acids



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➤ Salicylic acid

- It can be used to create acne medications.
- Therefore, It is used frequently in cleansers, liquid foundations, moisturizers, anti-aging hydrating creams, eye gels, and sun screens.

➤ Acetylsalicylic Acid in Aspirin

- Acetic acid acts as the precursor for the formation of an ester of salicylic acid which is used for aspirin (Acetyl Salicylic acid) production.

➤ Citric Acid

- Citric acid has a sour taste and is often used to add flavor to sour candies (covered in a white powder).
- Because citric acid is non-toxic and acidic, it is an ideal preservative. (it causes the pH to drop to a point where it is difficult for bacteria to survive).

➤ Industrial uses

- Manufacturing of soaps and detergents (oleic acid, Palmitic acid and stearic acid).