



Center for Green Chemistry

definition
12 principles
history
faq

12 Principles of Green Chemistry*

- 1. Prevention** - It is better to prevent waste than to treat or clean up waste after it has been created.
- 2. Atom Economy** - Synthetic methods should be designed to maximize the incorporation of all materials used in the process into the final product.
- 3. Less Hazardous Chemical Synthesis** - Wherever practicable, synthetic methods should be designed to use and generate substances that possess little or no toxicity to human health and the environment.
- 4. Designing Safer Chemicals** - Chemical products should be designed to effect their desired function while minimizing their toxicity.
- 5. Safer Solvents and Auxiliaries** - The use of auxiliary substances (e.g., solvents, separation agents, etc.) should be made unnecessary wherever possible and innocuous when used.
- 6. Design for Energy Efficiency** - Energy requirements of chemical processes should be recognized for their environmental and economic impacts and should be minimized. If possible, synthetic methods should be conducted at ambient temperature and pressure.
- 7. Use of Renewable Feedstocks** - A raw material or feedstock should be renewable rather than depleting whenever technically and economically practicable.
- 8. Reduce Derivatives** - Unnecessary derivatization (use of blocking groups, protection/deprotection, temporary modification of physical/chemical processes) should be minimized or avoided if possible, because such steps require additional reagents and can generate waste.
- 9. Catalysis** - Catalytic reagents (as selective as possible) are superior to stoichiometric reagents.
- 10. Design for Degradation** - Chemical products should be designed so that at the end of their function they break down into innocuous degradation products and do not persist in the environment.
- 11. Real-Time analysis for Pollution Prevention** - Analytical methodologies need to be further developed to allow for real-time, in-process monitoring and control prior to the formation of hazardous substances.
- 12. Inherently Safer Chemistry for Accident Prevention** - Substances and the form of a substance used in a chemical process should be chosen to minimize the potential for chemical accidents, including releases, explosions, and fires.

* - (Anastas, P. T.; Warner, J. C. Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice, Oxford University Press: New York, 1998, p.30)