

NAMING HYDROCARBONS

The name for a hydrocarbon generally consists of two parts. The first part indicates the number of carbon atoms in the chain:

1	C atom	meth	6	C atoms	hex
2	C atoms	eth	7	C atoms	hept
3	C atoms	prop	8	C atoms	oct
4	C atoms	but	9	C atoms	non
5	C atoms	pent	10	C atoms	dec

The second part of the name of a hydrocarbon is the same as that of its series. When you know the series to which a hydrocarbon belongs, you have other information available:

Series	Name Ending	General Formula	Bonding in C Chain
Alkane	ane	C_nH_{2n+2}	single bonds only
Alkene	ene	C_nH_{2n}	one double bond —C=C—
Alkyne	yne	C_nH_{2n-2}	one triple bond —C≡C—