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(54) Title: ACTIVATING SUPPORTS

(57) **Abstract:** Activating supports may be suitably prepared by (a) combining (i) fluorine-containing compounds having a reactive group and (ii) an organometallic compound, (b) addition of a porous mineral oxide support material, (c) heating the functionalized support from step (b) under an inert gas and then under an atmosphere comprising oxygen, and (d) recovering the activating support. The preferred fluorine-containing compounds have the formula: $R(F_n) - X$ wherein R is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl or substituted heterohydrocarbyl with up to 20 non-hydrogen atoms, n is 1 - 41, X is OH, SH or NR'_2 , R' is hydrogen or hydrocarbyl. The activating supports are suitable used in combination with transition metal catalysts for the polymerization of olefins. The supports are most preferably used in combination with metallocene complexes. The preparative route for the activating supports is easier and more economic than prior art methods and also provides for supported polymerization catalyst systems having excellent activities. Polymers produced by use of the activating supports exhibit improved rheology properties.

