

Abstract of the Disclosure

An improved method which enables stable and effective recovery of acrylic acid over a prolonged period is provided, said method comprising contacting an acrylic acid-containing gas obtained upon gas-phase catalytic oxidation of propylene and/or acrolein, with water, whereby collecting the acrylic acid in form of an aqueous solution, introducing said aqueous solution into an azeotropic separation column and distilling it in the presence of an azeotropic solvent to isolate and recover the acrylic acid, in which polymerization of the acrylic acid in the azeotropic separation column is prevented. Said method is characterized by using as the azeotropic solvent either a mixed solvent composed of solvent A (eg., ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, etc.) and solvent B (eg., toluene, heptane, etc.) (first embodiment) or the solvent A alone (second embodiment).

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