## Abstract

A process for preparing acrylic acid or methacrylic acid comprises preparing a gaseous product mixture having essentially the composition of a reaction mixture of the catalytic gas phase oxidation of $C_3$-/$C_4$-alkanes, -alkenes, -alkanols and/or -alkanals and/or precursors thereof to form acrylic acid or methacrylic acid. The product is removed from the gaseous product mixture by a process comprising the following steps:

(a) condensing said gaseous product mixture,

(b) crystallizing acrylic acid or methacrylic acid from the solution obtained in step (a),

(c) removing the resulting crystals from the mother liquor, and

(d) recycling at least a portion of said mother liquor from step (c) into step (a).