

ABSTRACT

ETHER RECOVERY

(Figure 1)

The alcohol, ether and hydrocarbon components of the reaction effluent from various etherifications of C_4 or C_5 isoolefins with an alcohol such as methanol or ethanol which produce MTBE, ETBE, TAME, or TAEF are separated using identical process equipment. The components are recovered by first removing a portion of the alcohol in a first water extraction step, then fractionating the ether, followed by the removal of additional alcohol in a second water extraction step and then fractionating the alcohol. Hydrocarbons are recovered from an extract stream of the second water extraction step.