

Method for completely emptying a catalytic reactor**ABSTRACT**

The subject of the present invention is a method for emptying a reactor (1) containing a bed (3) of spent catalyst particles and comprising a downwardly inclined dump tube (2), which opens into the reactor (1). This method comprises the following successive steps:

- a first step consisting in causing a proportion of the bed (3) of catalyst to flow out of the reactor via the said dump tube (2), then
- a second step of extracting the vestiges (3') of catalyst, which is performed by sucking up the particles of catalyst remaining in the reactor (1) at the end of the first step, using a flexible extraction sleeve (5) introduced into the reactor via the said dump tube and connected to an extraction system (6) situated outside the reactor, the said sleeve (5) being provided on its external surface with protuberances and being able to move, inside the reactor, translationally and rotationally with respect to the said dump tube (2).

[Fig. 3]