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(54) Title: REDUCING UNDESIREED POLYMERIZATION IN HYDROCARBON CRACKING PROCESSES

(57) Abstract: This invention is a method to inhibit the polymerization of carbonyl compounds in a basic wash unit operation in a hydrocarbon cracking process, wherein a compound selected from the group consisting of alpha-amino acids and esters thereof and amides thereof and salts thereof and mixtures thereof or Mercaptoacetic acid and alkyl esters thereof, is added either to a stream comprising a carbonyl compound or to the basic wash unit operation; wherein the compound is selected such that it remains water-soluble and base-soluble and does not flocculate in the stream or in the basic wash unit operation; and wherein the stream is contacted with the compound either before or at the same time as the stream enters the basic wash unit operation; or wherein the compound is added to the basic wash unit operation before or while the stream enters the basic wash unit operation.