

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of treating a gaseous hydrocarbon contained in waste gas by using adsorbent layers of single-tower or multi-tower configuration is characterized in that (1) double-cylinder type or multi-cylinder type adsorption apparatus, in which each adsorbent layer is indirectly cooled by cooling water, are employed as adsorption apparatus; (2) each adsorbent layer is a packed layer of one or more kinds of materials selected from activated carbon, synthetic zeolites and hydrophobic silica gel; (3) swing time required for switching between adsorption and desorption processes is set to 1 to 15 minutes; (4) each adsorbent layer is evacuated under vacuum while being purged by using part of clean gas evacuated from each adsorbent layer and/or air in the desorption process; and (5) the gaseous hydrocarbon is recovered from outflow purge gas. This method makes it possible to prevent abnormal temperature increase within each adsorbent layer and enhance the safety of the apparatus. It also makes it possible to decrease the residual gaseous hydrocarbon content of the waste gas released into the atmosphere down to 1 vol% or less.