

PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POLYETHER POLYOLS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Polyether polyols are produced by acid-catalyzed polyaddition of alkylene oxides to starter compounds having active hydrogen atoms. Perfluoroalkylsulfonic acid salts of metals from Group IIIA of the Periodic Table of Elements (corresponding to the IUPAC Convention of 1970) are used as the catalyst. The polyaddition reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 40 to 200°C at normal pressure or pressures from 0 to 20 mbar (absolute). An inert organic solvent may optionally be included in the reaction mixture. Substantially all of the catalyst is removed from the polyether polyol-containing reaction mixture by lowering the temperature and/or by addition of a precipitating agent and/or by extraction with water. If desired, the recovered catalyst may be used in subsequent polyaddition reactions.

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