

ABSTRACT

A process for the production of 4-alkylphenols is provided, which comprises the steps of: reacting a 4-unsubstituted phenol with an alkyl alcohol or an alkyl ether
5 in the presence of a synthetic zeolite, at a temperature of 50 to 110°C (the first step); either removing the generated water contained within the liquid phase of the produced reaction mixture in the case where an alkyl alcohol is used in the first step, or removing the generated alcohol contained within
10 the liquid phase of the produced reaction mixture in the case where an alkyl ether is used in the first step (the second step); and subsequently conducting a rearrangement reaction in the reaction mixture from which the generated water or the generated alcohol has been removed, at a temperature of 90 to
15 150°C and in the presence of an acid catalyst (the third step).

According to the present invention, 4-alkylphenols can be produced industrially advantageously with good selectivity and a high yield.