

**acetals**

Compounds having the structure  $R_2C(OR')_2$  ( $R' \neq H$ ) and thus diethers of geminal *diols*. Originally, the term was confined to derivatives of *aldehydes* (one  $R = H$ ), but it now applies equally to derivatives of *ketones* (neither  $R = H$ ). Mixed acetals have different  $R'$  groups.

See also *acetonides*, *ketals*, *acylals*, *hemiacetals*.

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