

**physisorption (physical adsorption)**

*Adsorption* in which the forces involved are *intermolecular* forces (*van der Waals forces*) of the same kind as those responsible for the imperfection of real gases and the condensation vapours, and which do not involve a significant change in the electronic orbital patterns of the species involved. The term van der Waals adsorption is synonymous with physical adsorption, but its use is not recommended.

1972, 31, 586; 1976, 46, 75