

**siloxanes**

Saturated silicon–oxygen hydrides with unbranched or branched chains of alternating silicon and oxygen atoms (each silicon atom is separated from its nearest silicon neighbours by single oxygen atoms). The general structure of unbranched siloxanes is  $\text{H}_3\text{Si}[\text{OSiH}_2]_n\text{OSiH}_3$ .  $\text{H}_3\text{Si}[\text{OSiH}_2]_n\text{OSiH}[\text{OSiH}_2\text{OSiH}_3]_2$  is an example of a branched siloxane. By extension *hydrocarbyl* derivatives are commonly included.

See also *silicones*.

1995, 67, 1366