

## Types of Chemical Formulas

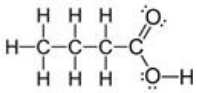
A **Molecular Formula** describes the exact number and type of atoms in a single molecule of a compound. The number of atoms is represented using subscripts. The molecular formula for sodium sulfate is **Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>** and for acetic acid it is **C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>**.

An **Empirical Formula** represents the simplest whole-integer ratio of atoms in a compound. The molecular formula for a compound can be the same as or a multiple of the compound's empirical formula. The empirical formula stays the same for ionic compounds, such as sodium sulfate (**Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>**), but it reduces to the lowest ratio for covalent compounds, such as acetic acid (**C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>**).

A **Structural Formula** shows the number of atoms and their exact arrangement in the molecule. The structural formula stays the same for ionic compounds, such as sodium sulfate (**Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>**), but it changes for organic compounds, such as acetic acid (**CH<sub>3</sub>COOH**).

For more information visit: <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-chemistry/chapter/chemical-formulas/>

Write the molecular, empirical, and structural formulas for butanoic acid below:

 <p>Butanoic acid</p>	Molecular Formula	Empirical Formula	Structural Formula
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**Empirical Formulas** can be calculated by using the **Percent Composition** of each element in a compound. For instance, suppose a chemist used **Combustion Analysis** to determine that a sample of **butanoic acid** was composed of **54.529% C**, **9.152% H**, and **36.319% O**. Follow the steps below to calculate its empirical formula.

Percent Composition	Change to Grams	÷ Molar Mass	= Moles	÷ Smallest Moles	= Subscripts
54.529 % C		÷	=	÷	=
9.152 % H		÷	=	÷	=
36.319 % O		÷	=	÷	=

Write the **Empirical Formula** for butanoic acid using the subscripts calculated above. \_\_\_\_\_ Compare this to the empirical formula for butanoic acid written in the first table above.

The **Molecular Formula** can be calculated by scaling up the empirical formula proportionately based on the measured molecular mass of the compound.

Given the **Empirical Formula** of **C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>1</sub>** and the **molecular mass of 88 g/mol** to calculate the molecular formula for butanoic acid. Compare it to the molecular formula shown above.

### Follow these steps to determine the molecular formula.

**Step 1:** Calculate the empirical mass using atomic masses from periodic table.

**Step 2:** Divide molecular mass by empirical mass to determine the scale factor.

**Step 3:** Multiply subscripts in empirical formula by scale factor to determine subscripts in molecular formula.

**Unit 7 Chemical Formulas and Reactions**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Intro to Chemical Formulas**

Block \_\_\_\_\_

1. The main ingredient in the antacid called Tums is composed of 40.043% Calcium, 12.000% Carbon, and 47.957% Oxygen. Write the empirical formula and name the compound.

Element	Change % to Grams	÷ Molar Mass	= Moles	÷ Smallest Moles	= Subscripts
Ca	g	÷	=	÷	=
C	g	÷	=	÷	=
O	g	÷	=	÷	=

Empirical Formula = \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Compound = \_\_\_\_\_

2. Using Combustion Analysis, a chemist determines that Nicotine, the addictive drug in cigarettes, contains 74.0% carbon, 8.65% hydrogen, and 17.35% nitrogen. Determine the empirical formula for nicotine.

Element	Change % to Grams	÷ Molar Mass	= Moles	÷ Smallest Moles	= Subscripts
C	g	÷	=	÷	=
H	g	÷	=	÷	=
N	g	÷	=	÷	=

Empirical Formula = \_\_\_\_\_

**Calculating Molecular Formulas. Show your work.**

- The empirical formula of a substance is  $C_4H_5ON_2$  and the molecular mass is 194.19 grams per mole. Determine its molecular formula.
- The empirical formula of a substance is  $CH_2O$  and its molecular mass is 180 g/mol. What is its molecular formula?
- Methylpropionylacetate is a carboxylic acid anion derived from a hexanoate. Its empirical formula is  $C_2H_3O$  and its molecular mass is 129.13 g/mol. Determine its molecular formula.