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Paraffin

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Paraffin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C727.

A common name for a group of high molecular weight alkane hydrocarbons with the general formula C_nH_{2n+2} , where n is between 22 and 27. Paraffin is also a technical name for an alkane in general, but in most cases it refers specifically to a linear, or normal alkane. It is mostly found as a white, odorless, tasteless, waxy solid, with a melting point between 47C and 65C. It is insoluble in water, but soluble in ether, benzene, and certain esters. Paraffin is unaffected by most common chemical reagents but oxidizes readily.