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Photocatalytic Degradation of Organic Compounds on TiO₂ Powders —FT-IR Investigation of Surface Reactivity and Mechanistic Aspects—

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This review examines a series of studies investigating the molecular phenomena occurring on the surface of TiO_2 , in the dark and under ultra violet spectroscopy (UV) irradiation, in processes intended to achieve the photocatalytic abatement of organic pollutants (*e.g.* phenols, VOCs, acetonitrile) of air and water. The investigation technique was fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), applied under simulated operating conditions, augmented with high resolution transmission electron microscopy for the elucidation of the surface structure and morphology of the TiO_2 particles. The results indicate the key role of surface hydroxyl groups as adsorbing/reacting centres (under UV irradiation) and the possibility that basic surface centres (hydroxyl groups and/or surface O^{2-} of the TiO_2 lattice) also affect the surface chemical processes.

Keywords: Photodegradation, Organics, Titanium (IV) oxide, FT-IR, TEM

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