

USES OF ESTERS

2.5.6 Outline some examples of the occurrence, production and uses of esters

Esters can be found naturally in fruits and artificially in flavourings and fragrances such as perfumes and colognes. As esters are cheaper to produce artificially than to extract from natural sources, they are often used to replace natural flavouring and fragrances. Examples of scents and flavours include ethyl butanoate as peach, octyl ethanoate as orange, and methyl butanoate as apple.

2.5.7 Process information from secondary sources to identify and describe the uses of esters as flavours and perfumes in processed foods and cosmetics

Esters occur naturally in living things. They have strong flavours and odours, so they are produced for use as flavours and perfumes in processed foods and in cosmetics.

Many esters are used as flavourings and perfumes due to their pleasant, fruity odours

Solvents: Domestic uses of esters include ethyl ethanoate for nail polish remover and scents for perfumes

Emulsifiers: Esters (e.g. glycerol) that have high molecular weight are used as emulsifying agents to prevent oils and water separating into layers in cosmetics and food products

Ethyl ethanoate is used industrially as a solvent, with its most common use being a nail polish remover.