

encapsulation (in catalysis)

Enzymes or cells which are of relatively large size may be entrapped in a maze of polymeric molecules (a gel). This procedure is called *immobilization by inclusion*. When the biocatalyst is enclosed inside a semipermeable membrane, usually approximately spherical, the method is known as *encapsulation*. In the process of reticulation the primary biocatalyst particles (individual enzyme molecules, cofactors or individual cells) are covalently attached to each other by organic chains, into a three-dimensional network. The term grafting is also used in this context. Attachment to the support by adsorption forces is called *immobilization by adsorption*.

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