An acetal is a compound that has the following general **structural formula**.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{R}_1 \quad \text{OR}^2 \\
\text{H} \\
\text{OR}^3 \\
\text{C}
\end{array}
\]

- \( R_1 = \text{H, alkyl, aryl} \)
- \( R_2, R_3 = \text{alkyl (In most acetals, } R_2 = R_3.) \)

**eg:**

The functional group 1 in an organic molecule is called the acetal group; the carbon atom bearing the two oxygen atoms is the acetal carbon.

**Contributors**

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