The molecular formula of a covalent compound is the formula that shows the number of atoms of each element present in one molecule of the compound.

• eg. 1: The molecular formula of ethane is C_2H_6, meaning the ethane molecule contains two carbon atoms and six hydrogen atoms.
• eg. 2: The molecular formula of nicotine is C_{10}H_{14}N_2, meaning the nicotine molecule contains ten carbon atoms, fourteen hydrogen atoms, and two nitrogen atoms.

see also structural formula, degree of unsaturation

Contributors

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