A symmetrical anhydride is a carboxylic acid anhydride that has the following general structural formula.

\[
\text{R}^1\text{C}\text{O}\text{C}\text{R}^2
\]

\(\text{R}^1=\text{R}^2\) = hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups, aryl groups

eg:

- \(\text{H} \text{C} \text{O} \text{C} \text{H}\)
- \(\text{CH}_3 \text{C} \text{O} \text{C} \text{CH}_3\)

see also [mixed anhydride](#)

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**Contributors**

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