



Chemie.de: An international chemistry portal

Made in Germany with the whole world in mind – that's Chemie.de Information Service. The site is run as a portal, i.e. it does not contain a lot of information itself, rather it helps you to find information elsewhere on the web. If what you are looking for is often hard to find between all the useless sites — surf chemie.de!

The entry page (switch to English by clicking on the German (!) flag) shows first some news from the chemical industry. Below you will find ten menu entries that lead you to the different parts of Chemie.de (Figure 1). Once you find the QuickFinder in the top right corner of the page, you can easily navigate between these parts at any time. On the left side, there are some adverts and news.

The design of the site is simple yet elegant, and the colors are well chosen. The QuickFinder and the text-based navigation at the end of each page allow you to make large jumps in the site even without frames. Banner adverts hardly interfere with the information.



Figure 1. The main menu of Chemie.de

What's inside chemie.de? The most important part is probably the Chemistry Search Engine (Figure 2). If it finds too many entries, limit your search to certain categories by a simple mouse click. You can also browse the categories. This makes searching very flexible and specific, although not every entry has been categorized. There is also a Meta Search Engine which launches searches in about 13 chemical suppliers' or 20 publishers' databases such as the Wiley-VCH article finder.

There is also a Buyer's Guide you can browse or search. Entering your company on the list is free, although a link and a logo are not (by mail or fax only).

In the software part, there are numerous commercial and free programs that are useful for chemists: from Gaussian to small specialised converters. It also contains links to the programs' home pages and reviews of the software.

The Toolbox contains some helpful things. A German/English dictionary that contains words from a single organic chemistry textbook has obvious limits, though. There is also a copy of the interactive periodic table WebElements Version 1. The acronym database contains a lot of abbreviations from chemistry, spectroscopy and computer science. In interdisciplinary areas, the air gets thinner: The textbook example liquid crystal MBBA is found, but not the classical antiferroelectric liquid crystal MHPOBC. The unit converter and the molecular mass calculator do what you would expect them to. An additional converter for units of concentration would be very useful.

Chemie.de furthermore contains a searchable event database. You are interested in dendrimers? This page has a workshop in Germany, a symposium in South Korea, and a Gordon Research Conference in Connecticut for you. In order to enter events or job offers, you have to register first. Both can be done via the web. Input from users is vital for this part of the portal. It is not possible to link a specific entry, though.



Figure 2. The search engine of Chemie.de

As a communication tool, Chemie.de provides two discussion boards for chemists: the first being of a general nature, the second is dedicated to patents and licenses and is moderated by patent lawyers. To write messages for these boards, you have to register again. Overall, Chemie.de is a very useful portal site for chemists. If you do not know where to find chemical information on the web, here is a starting point for you.

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For further information visit

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