

**crosslink**

A small region in a *macromolecule* from which at least four *chains* emanate, and formed by reactions involving sites or groups on existing macromolecules or by interactions between existing macromolecules.

Notes:

1. The small region may be an atom, a group of atoms, or a number of branch points connected by bonds, groups of atoms, or oligomeric chains.
2. In the majority of cases, a crosslink is a covalent structure but the term is also used to describe sites of weaker chemical interactions, portions of crystallites, and even physical entanglements.

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