

STERIC HINDRANCE

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- a non-reactive portion of a molecule blocks a reaction site.
- slows the reaction rate (hinders the reaction).
- example is: alcohols with sodium.
- the longer the side chain, the greater the steric hindrance, the slower the reaction.
- higher degrees around a reactive site increase steric hindrance, and also slow the reaction.
- degree matters more than "side chain" length.
- should matter even more with t-butyl alcohol, except that an alternate reaction pathways improves its speed slightly.