Cruel Chlorofluorocarbon’s Collective Cut-Off

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# What are CFCs?

CFCs are a type of organic compound composed of Carbon, Fluorine and Chlorine. CFCs can also have hydrogen in them. If they do, they are known as Hydrochlorofluorocarbons or HCFCs.

CFC-11 or tricholorofluorocarbon and CFC-12 or dicholorofluorocarbon are used as aerosol-spray propellants, solvents, and foam-blowing agents.

# Discovery of CFCs’ Cruel Capabilities

CFCs were eventually discovered to pose a serious environmental threat. Studies, especially those of American chemists F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina and Dutch chemist Paul Crutzen, indicated that CFCs, once released into the atmosphere, accumulate in the stratosphere, where they contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer. The ozone layer prevents the sun’s ultraviolet radiation of reaching the surface of the Earth. It can cause skin cancer in humans.

## Chemical Reaction of Chlorine and Ozone

Cl (chlorine) + O3 (ozone) → ClO (chlorine monoxide) + O2 (oxygen)

# Resolution

The Montreal Protocol in 1987 is a signature that if signed, countries are no longer allowed to use CFCs. 140 countries signed it in 1992.