

Methyl group

A **methyl** group is an alkyl derived from **methane**, containing one **carbon atom** bonded to three hydrogen atoms — CH₃. In formulas, the group is often abbreviated Me. Such hydrocarbon groups occur in many organic compounds. It is a very stable group in most molecules. While the methyl group is usually part of a larger molecule, it can be found on its own in any of three forms: anion, cation or radical. The anion has eight valence electrons, the radical seven and the cation six. All three forms are highly reactive and rarely observed.

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