

## **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.

**Source:**

PAC, 1996, 68, 2287 (*Glossary of basic terms in polymer science (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 2298