

# Alcohol

**Alcohol** in general terms is a molecule containing a hydroxyl group, i.e. an **-OH** group. Alcohols can be divided according to the number of -OH groups in the molecule as follows:

- 1 -OH group = primary alcohols,
- 2 -OH group = secondary alcohols (diols),
- 3 -OH group = tertiary alcohols (triols),
- etc.

One of the most significant is **ethanol** - it can be used, for example, as a disinfectant, fuel, preservative and as a component of alcoholic beverages.

When consumed, alcohol affects the coordination of movements (it affects the cerebellum). Frequent consumption can lead to **alcoholism**, possibly causing a range of health complications, from euphoric (or depressive) states to severe liver damage.

## Sources

### Related articles

- Alcoholism
- Fetal alcoholic syndrome