Physico-Chemical Properties of Synthetic Hydrotalcites in Relation to Composition

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Abstract: Hydrotalcite solid solutions were prepared by coprecipitation followed by hydrothermal treatment between 150° and 250° C. Based on the structural formula $[Mg_{1-x}Al_x(OH)_2]^{X+}[(CO_3)_{x/2} \cdot mH_2O]^{x-}$, pure solid solutions were formed in the range Al/(Al + Mg) = 0.2 to 0.33, where m = (1 - 3x/2). Maximum crystallite size was achieved by hydrothermal treatment between 180° and 200° C with x = 0.337 to 0.429. Crystal strain was also minimized at these values of x. The adsorption capacity for Naphthol Yellow S increased as x increased and reached a maximum (1.56 \times 10⁻⁶ moles/m²) when x = 0.287, a value eight times larger than that of Mg(OH)₂. A weak endothermic DTA peak at about 350° C is probably due to the loss of structural water in the main layer of the structure. On calcination between 400° and 700° C only periclase was detected, probably containing Al in solid solution. Hydration of the calcined product resulted in the reconstruction of the original hydrotalcite structure.

Key Words: Crystal strain • Hydrotalcite • Solid solution • Synthesis • Thermal stability

Clays and Clay Minerals; February 1980 v. 28; no. 1; p. 50-56; DOI: 10.1346/CCMN.1980.0280107 © 1980, The Clay Minerals Society (www.clays.org)