

Table 6-11 Capital cost data for chemical and petroleum processing plants (2000)[†]

Product or process	Process	Typical plant size	Fixed-capital investment, million \$	Power factor x^{\ddagger} for specified process plant
		10³ kg/yr (10³ ton/yr)		
Acetic acid	CH ₃ OH and CO—catalytic	9 × 10 ³ (10)	8	0.68
Acetone	Propylene-copper chloride catalyst	9 × 10 ⁴ (100)	33	0.45
Ammonia	Steam reforming	9 × 10 ⁴ (100)	29	0.53
Ammonium nitrate	Ammonia and nitric acid	9 × 10 ⁴ (100)	6	0.65
Butanol	Propylene, CO, and H ₂ O—catalytic	4.5 × 10 ⁴ (50)	48	0.40
Chlorine	Electrolysis of NaCl	4.5 × 10 ⁴ (50)	33	0.45
Ethylene	Refinery gases	4.5 × 10 ⁴ (50)	16	0.83
Ethylene oxide	Ethylene—catalytic	4.5 × 10 ⁴ (50)	59	0.78
Formaldehyde (37%)	Methanol—catalytic	9 × 10 ³ (10)	19	0.55
Glycol	Ethylene and chlorine	4.5 × 10 ³ (5)	18	0.75
Hydrofluoric acid	Hydrogen fluoride and H ₂ O	9 × 10 ³ (10)	10	0.68
Methanol	CO ₂ , natural gas, and steam	5.5 × 10 ⁴ (60)	15	0.60
Nitric acid (high-strength)	Ammonia—catalytic	9 × 10 ⁴ (100)	8	0.60
Phosphoric acid	Calcium phosphate and H ₂ SO ₄	4.5 × 10 ³ (5)	4	0.60
Polyethylene (high-density)	Ethylene—catalytic	4.5 × 10 ³ (5)	19	0.65
Propylene	Refinery gases	9 × 10 ³ (10)	4	0.70
Sulfuric acid	Sulfur—contact catalytic	9 × 10 ⁴ (100)	4	0.65
Urea	Ammonia and CO ₂	5.5 × 10 ⁴ (60)	10	0.70
		10³ m³/day (10³ bbl/day)		
Alkylation (H ₂ SO ₄)	Catalytic	1.6 (10)	23	0.60
Coking (delayed)	Thermal	1.6 (10)	31	0.38
Coking (fluid)	Thermal	1.6 (10)	19	0.42
Cracking (fluid)	Catalytic	1.6 (10)	19	0.70
Cracking	Thermal	1.6 (10)	6	0.70
Distillation (atm.)	65% vaporized	16 (100)	38	0.90
Distillation (vac.)	65% vaporized	16 (100)	23	0.70
Hydrotreating	Catalytic desulfurization	1.6 (10)	3.5	0.65
Reforming	Catalytic	1.6 (10)	34	0.60
Polymerization	Catalytic	1.6 (10)	6	0.58

[†]Adapted from K. M. Guthrie, *Chem. Eng.*, 77(13): 140 (1970); and K. M. Guthrie, *Process Plant Estimating, Evaluation, and Control*, Craftsman Book Company of America, Solana Beach, CA, 1974. See also J. E. Haselbarth, *Chem. Eng.*, 74(25): 214 (1967), and D. E. Drayer, *Petro. Chem. Eng.*, 42(5): 10 (1970).

[‡]These power factors apply within roughly a 3-fold ratio extending either way from the plant size as given.

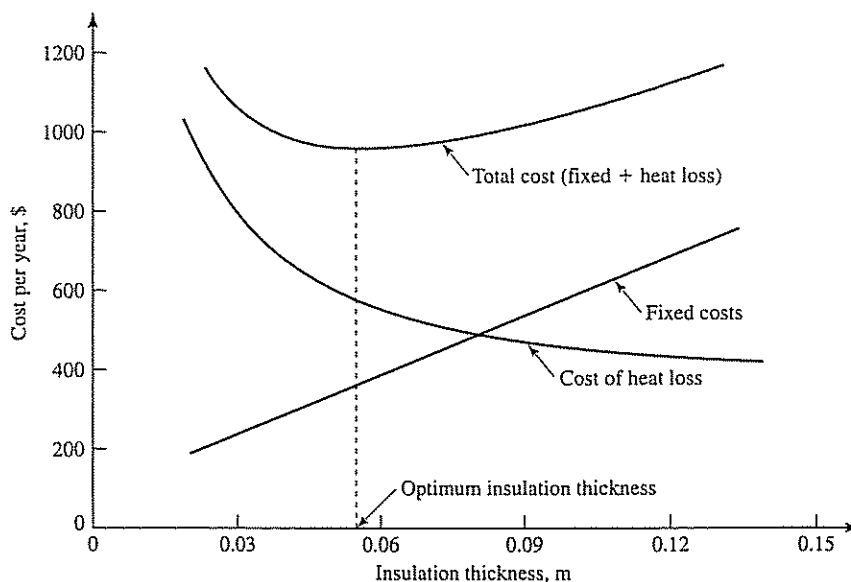


Figure 9-1
Illustration of the basic principle of an optimum design