

Review

# Materials for Solid-Phase Extraction of Organic Compounds

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Received: 21 October 2019; Accepted: 28 November 2019; Published: 6 December 2019



**Abstract:** This review provides an overview of the most recent developments involving materials for solid-phase extraction applied to determine organic contaminants. It mainly concerns polymer-based sorbents that include high-capacity, as well as selective sorbents, inorganic-based sorbents that include those prepared using sol-gel technology along with structured porous materials based on inorganic species, and carbon nanomaterials, such as graphene and carbon nanotubes. Different types of magnetic nanoparticles coated with these materials are also reviewed. Such materials, together with their main morphological and chemical features, are described, as are some representative examples of their application as solid-phase extraction materials to extract organic compounds from different types of samples, including environmental water, biological fluids, and food.

**Keywords:** materials; solid-phase extraction; organic compounds; silica; polymeric; carbonaceous; porous; magnetic; (nano)particles; selectivity; capacity

## 1. Introduction

Sample treatment is still one of the main challenges in the development of analytical methods to determine organic compounds from different matrices. Therefore, resorting from sample preparations that include preconcentration of the compounds and the elimination of matrix interferences is still to be recommended before any chromatographic determination.

Over time, solid-phase extraction (SPE) has emerged as the most commonly used and successful sample extraction technique to extract compounds from liquid matrices effectively. One of its main advantages is its versatility since a wide range of materials that have different properties and types of interaction with the compounds have become available [1].

Silica-based sorbents and those modified with C<sub>18</sub>, C<sub>8</sub>, or NH<sub>2</sub> were the first to be applied to SPE. However, they have a number of drawbacks, such as instability at extreme pHs and the activity of residual silanols. Carbon-based sorbents such as graphitized carbon blacks (GCBs) and porous graphitic carbons (PGCs) then emerged, presenting high (and even irreversible) retention of some compounds. Polymer-based sorbents appeared later to overcome the disadvantages of previous sorbents and have remained one of the main developments in SPE, with continuous progress being made over recent decades. Polymeric sorbents combine outstanding morphological properties that promote capacity and retention with tuned chemical properties that allow suitable interactions with many types of compounds and show enhanced stability under several SPE conditions. They might today be described as the most well-established technology for SPE, although several developments with these types of material have also been made with regards to the tuning of their properties, interactions, and fields of application.

In recent years, however, other developments in sorbent technology apart from those involving polymer-based materials have also taken place. These novel materials include organic-inorganic hybrid materials, metallic nanoparticles, metal-organic frameworks, carbon nanomaterials, among others.

The aim of this review is to provide an overview of the latest developments in sorbent technology for SPE. There are different classifications for presenting these materials, although we organized the present review in accordance with the typical classification of sorbents for SPE that tend to be silica-based, carbon-based, and polymer-based. Nevertheless, novel strategies in morphology and chemistry that have emerged recently are also thoroughly discussed. As the field is very large and promising, we merely describe the materials and their main properties, providing some illustrative examples for each type of material as a representative fraction of the research published in this field. We encourage readers to consult specific reviews of each type of material to learn more about the details of the synthetic approaches used, their characterization, features, and applications.

## 2. Polymer-Based Materials

Polymer based-materials have been one of the main developments in SPE. This is mainly because of their morphological (high specific surface area –SAA- and porosity) and chemical features that result from the diversity of synthetic routes that can be applied, introducing various chemical moieties into the polymer framework. Indeed, although these materials are long-established and have been applied over the years, research in this area is continuously growing. Evidence of this is the fact that several polymeric sorbents are commercially available and widely applied among the scientific community for various applications, including a wide range of compounds extracted from different fields (food, biological, environmental, etc.), together with others that have been developed in-house. Table 1 shows some selected examples of the applications of polymeric-based sorbents. Comprehensive information on the application of these materials can be found in previous reviews and book chapters on the subject [2–5].

Different types of polymer-based sorbents have been developed to accommodate high-capacity or high-selectivity properties, or a combination of both. The following sections describe these and discuss some examples of their applications.

**Table 1.** Examples of the applications of polymer-based materials in solid-phase extraction.

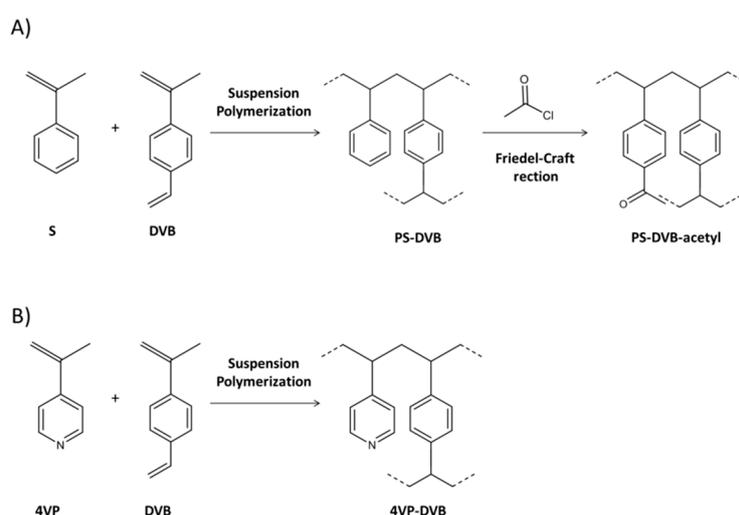
Type	Material	SPE Mode	Compounds	Sample	Instrumental Technique	Reference	
High capacity	PLRP-S	off-line	drugs of abuse	wastewater	LC-MS/MS	[6]	
	Bond Elut Plexa	dispersive	antibiotic	milk	LC-MS/MS	[7]	
	Strata X	off-line	pharmaceuticals	wastewater	LC-MS/MS	[8]	
	Oasis HLB	off-line	sweeteners	wastewater	LC-MS/MS	[9]	
	Oasis HLB	in-line	drugs	urine	CE-MS	[10]	
	Lichrolut EN	off-line	EDCs <sup>1</sup>	urine, blood, milk	GC-MS	[11]	
	XAD-4 modif. NO <sub>2</sub> /COCH <sub>3</sub> /NH <sub>2</sub> /COOH	on-line μSPE	pesticides	urine, oil, wastewater	LC-UV	[12]	
	PS-DVB modif. benzoyl	on-line	pesticides	river	LC-UV	[13]	
	NVIm-DVB <sup>2</sup>	on-line	pesticides	river	LC-UV	[14]	
	MAA-EDMA <sup>3</sup>	off-line	nerve agents & organophosphorus	organic matrix	GC-MS	[15]	
	HXLPP <sup>4</sup>	on-line	pesticides	river, wastewater	LC-UV	[16]	
	HXLPP (HEMA) <sup>5</sup>	off-line	pesticides	river, wastewater	LC-UV	[17]	
	Selective	MIP (ciprofloxacin)	off-line	antibiotics	lake, wastewater	LC-MS/MS	[18]
		MIP (caffeic acid)	off-line	polyphenols	Oil, wastewater	LC-UV	[19]
MIP (bisphenol A)		off-line	bisphenol A	sediments, milk, oil, urine	LC-DAD	[20]	
MIP (insulin)		off-line	insulin	plasma	LC-DAD	[21]	
MIP (PAHs)		off-line	PAHs <sup>6</sup>	seawater	GC-MS	[22]	
SupelMIP NSAIDs <sup>7</sup>		off-line	NSAIDs <sup>7</sup>	wastewater	LC-MS/MS	[23]	
SupelMIP AG		off-line	aminoglycosides	milk	LC-MS/MS	[24]	
AffiMIP-Phenolic		off-line	PCBs <sup>8</sup> , PBDEs <sup>9</sup>	animal tissues	GC-MS, LC-MS	[25]	
Oasis MCX		off-line	drugs of abuse	wastewater, urine	LC-MS/MS	[26]	
Strata-X-WC		off-line	toxins	urine	LC-TOF <sup>10</sup>	[27]	
Oasis WAX		off-line	PFCAs <sup>11</sup>	river, groundwater, drinking	LC-MS/MS	[28]	
Bond Elut Plexa SAX		off-line	herbicides	stormwater	LC-MS/MS	[29]	
HXLPP-WAX <sup>4</sup>		on-line	pharmaceuticals	river, wastewater	LC-UV	[30]	
HXLPP-WCX <sup>4</sup>		off-line	pharmaceuticals	river, wastewater	LC-MS/MS	[31]	
DEAEMA-DVB-SAX <sup>12</sup>		off-line	pharmaceuticals	urine	LC-UV	[32]	
GMA-DVB-SCX <sup>13</sup>		off-line	alkylate purines	river, wastewater	LC-UV	[33]	

<sup>1</sup> EDCs: endocrine disrupting compounds; <sup>2</sup> NVIm-DVB: N-vinylimidazole-divinylbenzene; <sup>3</sup> MAA-EDMA: methacrylic acid-ethylmethacrylate; <sup>4</sup> HXLPP: hyper-crosslinked sorbent prepared by precipitation polymerization; <sup>5</sup> HXLPP (HEMA): HXLPP including hydroxyethylene dimethacrylate; <sup>6</sup> PAHs: polycyclic aromatic compounds; <sup>7</sup> NSAIDs: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; <sup>8</sup> PCBs: polychlorinated bisphenyls; <sup>9</sup> PBDEs: polybrominated diphenyl ethers; <sup>10</sup> TOF: time-of-flight; <sup>11</sup> PFCAs: polyfluorinated carboxylic acids; <sup>12</sup> DEAEMA: 2-(diethylamino)ethyl methacrylate; <sup>13</sup> GMA: glycidyl methacrylate.

### 2.1. High-Capacity Polymeric Materials

Conventional polymeric sorbents are crosslinked polymers based on poly(styrene-divinylbenzene) (PS-DVB), which has a hydrophobic structure and SSA of up to 500 m<sup>2</sup>/g. The hydrophobic structure of the PS-DVB polymer interacts with the analytes through the Van der Waals forces and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions of the aromatic rings. However, the hydrophobic structure shows low retention toward the polar analytes. This can be overcome by introducing polar moieties into the sorbents to promote polar interactions with the analytes and improve retention. The SSA can also be increased (ca. 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/g) by further crosslinking the polymeric network to obtain hyper-crosslinked (HXL) polymers, which show enhanced retention capacity.

Hydrophilicity can be introduced by chemically modifying the hydrophobic polymer (i.e., PS-DVB) with polar functional groups or by copolymerizing with polar monomers. Figure 1 shows the typical synthetic approach used to obtain hydrophilic polymeric sorbents through chemical modification (A) and copolymerization (B).



**Figure 1.** Synthetic approaches to prepare hydrophilic polymeric sorbents: by chemical modification (A) and by copolymerization with a hydrophilic monomer (B).

With regard to the chemical functionalization approach, the PS-DVB polymeric network is chemically modified with a polar moiety framed in a Friedel-Craft reaction. Using this approach, polymeric materials with optimal morphological features can be obtained from the precursor. Strata-X (Phenomenex) is a commercially available sorbent based on PS-DVB functionalized with pyrrolidone moieties that confer hydrophilic properties. In one application, Strata-X was applied to extract a group of pharmaceuticals from wastewater in combination with liquid chromatography (LC) followed by mass spectrometry in tandem (MS/MS), achieving satisfactory results in terms of recovery (50–117%) and low matrix effect (−30–30%) [8]. A PS-DVB polymer was functionalized with a benzoyl moiety in order to give the obtained sorbent polar properties while maintaining the same morphological properties (i.e., SSA 900 m<sup>2</sup>/g). Packed in the on-line SPE followed by LC with UV detection (LC-UV), this sorbent successfully applied to extract a group of pesticides in river water and achieved better results than those obtained with the non-modified resin [13]. Recently, XAD-4 resin (PS network) was modified with amine, nitro, acetyl, and carboxyl groups. These materials were then applied in the on-line  $\mu$ SPE (5 mg) followed by LC-UV to determine a group of 22 analytes covering different polarities. The recovery results were again compared to commercial sorbents and revealed that XAD-COOH was better than all the other sorbents tested. XAD-COOH was also applied to analyze oil, hospital wastewater, and urine samples with successful results [12].

As for the copolymerization approach, this consists of copolymerizing a hydrophilic monomer (i.e., N-vinylpyrrolidone—NVP-, methacrylic acid—MAA-, 4-vinylpyridine—4VP-, etc.) with a crosslinking

agent (DVB, ethyldimethacrylate—EDMA-, etc.). This strategy has been extensively applied to generate both commercial and in-house SPE sorbents. Although different hydrophilic polymeric materials are available, Oasis HLB (Waters), which is a copolymer of NVP-DVB with SSA of 800 m<sup>2</sup>/g, has become the most popular due to its capacity and robustness as reported in many applications [2,5]. Oasis HLB was selected for a comparative study that included six sorbents with different SSAs and hydrophilicity features for determining a group of artificial sweeteners in water samples followed by LC-MS/MS. This selection was based on the better results achieved (recovery between 73–112%) compared to the other materials tested [9]. This type of sorbent has been widely used in multi-residue analysis due to its generic features that are capable of retaining compounds with a broad range of properties. For instance, a multiresidue method to determine more than 1000 licit and illicit drugs from wastewater and surface water was developed based on SPE using the Oasis HLB, followed by LC with a quadrupole-time of flight (QToF) detector [34].

Despite the availability of commercial sorbents, various research groups have synthesized hydrophilic sorbents by means of copolymerization (Figure 1B). Our research group, for instance, prepared 4VP-DVB [35], N-vinylimidazole-divinylbenzene (NVIIm-DVB) [14] that presented SSA of about 700 m<sup>2</sup>/g. They were successfully applied to the SPE of different polar compounds, including phenolic compounds and pesticides from environmental water samples. Recently, the performance of different materials prepared from a combination of different monomers, such as MAA, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), EDMA, and DVB were compared. The material based on MAA-HEMA ultimately showed the best recoveries (from 75% to 100%) for the extraction of a group of nerve agents from an organic matrix [15].

As mentioned earlier, another way of enhancing retention is by preparing HXL polymers obtained by post-crosslinking PS-DVB or vinylbenzyl chloride (VBC)-DVB precursors by means of a Friedel-Craft reaction. The HXL material obtained has a high micropore content and ultra-high SSA (up to 2000 m<sup>2</sup>/g) [36]. In addition, a number of methods have been proposed for obtaining hydrophilic materials with HXL networks. For instance, a hydrophilic HXL terpolymer based on HEMA-VBC-DVB (25/25/50, mole ratio) with an SSA of 850 m<sup>2</sup>/g was synthesized [17]. This material was evaluated in the off-line SPE to extract a group of polar compounds from environmental water samples. The results showed that the presence of polar moieties together with the high SSA led to excellent recovery results (>88%) that outperformed those achieved with commercially available sorbents. Table 1 provides some examples of HXL materials, both commercially available and in-house prepared.

## 2.2. Selective Polymeric Materials

Selective materials mainly comprise molecularly imprinted polymers (MIPs) and mixed-mode ion-exchange polymer materials when a washing step during the SPE protocol is applied. A common feature is their ability to retain target analytes through specific interactions after an effective washing step.

The selectivity of a MIP arises during synthesis, when functional monomers (which have the moieties to interact with the template) and crosslinker agents (to provide the suitable morphological properties) are polymerized in the presence of the target compound(s) (template) that controls the functionality of the cavities and size during polymerization. Once the polymerization is complete, the template is removed so that the target compound(s) can establish interactions with the shape, size, and functionalities of the binding sites generated. The preparation of MIPs and their application in SPE (so-called MISPE) have been extensively described and discussed in several reviews [37,38] since they were first reported by Sellergren in 1994 [39]. Table 1 provides some selected examples of MIPs, covering in-house generated and commercially available.

In one example [19], different functional monomers and crosslinker agents were evaluated to prove the selectivity of the generated MIP toward caffeic acid and p-hydroxybenzoic acid for the selective extraction of polyphenols from olive oil wastewaters. From the monomers tested, it was found that 4VP and allylaniline showed better recognition than MMA and allylurea, and pentaerythritol triacrylate (PETRA) was more suitable as a crosslinker than EDMA due to its flexibility. Other studies

compare the recognition ability of the MIP when different templates are tested. Several of the MIPs prepared using the same target compound as the template. However, template bleeding during SPE is one of the main drawbacks of MISPE. The “dummy” imprinting approach that involves the use of an analog molecule as the template can solve this problem. Phenolphthalein was successfully used as a dummy template for the selective MISPE extraction of bisphenol A from biological, environmental, and food samples [20].

Class selectivity can also occur when a MIP shows retention for the target compound and other structurally related compounds. For instance, a MIP prepared using ciprofloxacin as the template showed cross-reactivity for a group of fluoroquinolones, but not for other antibiotics [18]. Class selectivity can also be exploited by preparing multi-template MIPs, in which more than one template is used during the synthesis. Song et al. [22] developed a MIP using a group of 16 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) as the template. This multi-template MIP was then evaluated through the MISPE of PAHs from seawater, achieving even higher recoveries than the MIP prepared using a single PAH as a template.

Class selective MIPs have also been commercialized under different brands for different families of compounds such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (SupelMIP NSAIDs and Affilute MIP-NSAIDs), amphetamines (SupelMIP Amphetamine), and aminoglycosides (SupelMIP-Aminoglycosides). For instance, SupelMIP NSAIDs were evaluated through the selective determination of these pharmaceuticals in wastewater samples [23]. During the development of the method, a cleanup step was added to the MISPE protocol, so the matrix effect was lower than those obtained with Oasis HLB (non-selective sorbent). The recoveries achieved were similar for both sorbents.

The use of MIPs has become more widespread over recent years, and in addition to those prepared using polymeric frameworks, other supports such as metallic nanoparticles, hybrid materials, and carbon-based materials have also been developed. These types of MIPs are covered in the corresponding sections that follow.

Mixed-mode ion-exchange polymeric materials are an alternative for achieving selectivity and capacity in a single material for ionic or ionizable compounds as long as a washing step is included in the SPE protocol. These materials combine a polymeric skeleton (non-specific interactions) functionalized with ion-exchange groups (specific interactions with the charged analytes) and can be classified into four groups: strong cation exchangers (SCX), strong anion exchangers (SAX), weak cation exchangers (WCX) and weak anion exchangers (WAX). SCX sorbent is usually functionalized with sulfonic acid groups, whereas WCX is functionalized with a carboxylic acid. SAX sorbent usually has quaternary amine groups, while WAX has either ternary, secondary, or primary amines. These have progressively been applied in many different fields in recent years, and some reviews have also been published [5,40]. Due to their widespread use, several mixed-mode sorbents have been made commercially available, while some researchers have developed in-house versions. Table 1 presents some selected examples of mixed-mode ion-exchange polymeric materials and their applications.

SCX sorbents such as Oasis MCX, Strata-X-C, and Chromabond HR-X have been widely used for determining drugs of abuse and novel psychoactive substances in complex samples such as wastewater and biological fluids. This is because most of these drugs have basic properties and so they can interact ionically with the acidic groups of the SCX sorbent when these compounds are charged (at acidic pH values). With these conditions, an effective washing step based on the organic solvent can be applied, disrupting only the reversed-phase interactions and not the ionic interactions that caused the selectivity to arise. For instance, in the monitoring of cocaine and its main metabolites in wastewater and urine samples, Oasis MCX was selected from among other evaluated mixed-mode sorbents (Oasis MAX and Oasis WCX) and one generic sorbent (Oasis HLB), since it provided the best recoveries after a washing step consisting of 2 mL of MeOH. The developed method based on SPE followed by LC-MS/MS provided recoveries higher than 60% and limits of quantification in the low ng/L range [26]. Strata-X-WA and Oasis WAX were compared for the extraction of a group of perfluorinated carboxylic acids (PFCAs) from drinking, surface, and groundwater. Both provided good extraction recoveries for

different compounds in the PCFA family, but Oasis WAX was ultimately selected for its robustness and quantitative recoveries [28].

An in-house HXL sorbent with WCX moieties (called HXLPP-WCX) was synthesized by copolymerization of the terpolymer based on MAA-VBC-DVB, which contains the carboxylic acid moieties in the MAA monomer. The HXLPP-WCX sorbent was successfully evaluated in the SPE and was used as a benchmark for the commercially available Oasis WCX and Strata-X WC during the extraction of a group of pharmaceuticals from environmental samples [31]. A copolymer based on 2-(diethylamino)ethyl methacrylate (DEAEMA) and DVB (DEAEMA-DVB) with a ternary amine was then functionalized with diglycidyl ether derivatives followed by quaternization with N,N-dimethylethanolamine (DMEA) to produce a mixed-mode SAX sorbent that was applied to extract pharmaceuticals from urine samples [32]. Glycidyl methacrylate (GMA)-DVB was functionalized with sulfonic groups to display SCX properties. This material was then successfully applied to extract alkylate-purine adducts from urine samples selectively [33].

### 3. Inorganic-Based Materials

Silica-based materials in bare form or modified with different functional groups, including C<sub>18</sub>, C<sub>8</sub>, phenyl, and amino have, for many years, been some of the most widely used in SPE and are still used today. However, other inorganic oxides and mixed inorganic polymers, as well as composites of them, have now emerged and been applied as SPE sorbents in order to improve the chemical and mechanical features of the originals. The following sections cover different types of inorganic-based materials, classified according to their preparation approach and interaction mechanisms. The organic-inorganic hybrid materials have been extensively evaluated as materials in different extraction techniques because of their features, especially the microextraction techniques such as solid-phase microextraction (SPME) and stir-bar sorptive extraction (SBSE), but also SPE in different formats such as pipette tip extraction and microextraction by packed syringe (MEPS) [41,42].

#### 3.1. Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Materials

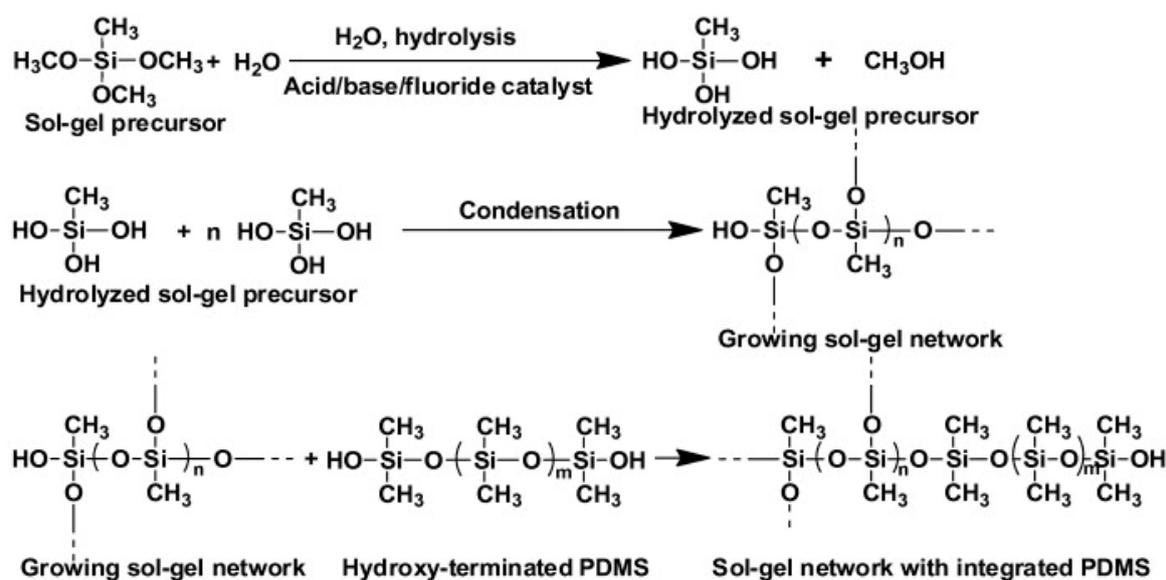
Organic-inorganic hybrid materials are prepared by mixing organic and inorganic materials into a single-phase system so that they interact with each other. The combination produces materials with unique features of enhanced thermal, mechanical, chemical, and other properties that lead to the improved sorption of compounds [43].

Sol-gel chemistry involves the hydrolysis and condensation of metal alkoxides in the presence of a catalyst and a solvent prior to forming the polymer network. Figure 2 shows the reactions involved during the sol-gel process. During the process, a liquid colloidal solution (“sol”) evolves into a solid (“gel”). During condensation, the sol-gel active organic ligands are then progressively incorporated into the growing inorganic network. Different hybrid materials can be prepared by combining different sol-gel precursors and organic monomers, which makes sol-gel technology highly versatile. Tetraethoxysilane (TEOS) and tetramethoxysilane (TMOS) are the precursors most frequently used to generate inorganic polymers from silica-based materials. Table 2 shows some selected examples of the use of materials prepared using sol-gel technology for SPE. For example, a hybrid organic-inorganic sorbent containing methyltrimethoxysilane (MTMOS) combined with TEOS was prepared and applied as SPE sorbent for the extraction of a group of pesticides, achieving good results. These were attributed to the improved hydrophobicity, large SSA, and mesoporous structure of the material thanks to the introduction of the MTMOS-TEOS [44]. SiO<sub>2</sub>-based materials are usually used, although other common inorganic oxides such as titania or zirconia are also employed. For example, titania was used as a precursor in the sol-gel process to prepare ceramic composite nanofibers that were then evaluated as an SPE sorbent to extract naproxen and clobetasol from urine and plasma [45].

**Table 2.** Examples of the applications of inorganic-based materials in SPE.

Type	Material	SPE Mode	Compounds	Sample	Instrumental Technique	Reference
Organic-inorganic hybrid	sol-gel hybrid MTMOS-TEOS <sup>1</sup>	off-line	organophosphorus	tap, mineral, river, fruit	GC-MS	[44]
	sol-gel hybrid MTMOS-MPTMS <sup>2</sup>	off-line	NSAIDs <sup>3</sup>	river	LC-UV	[46]
	sol-gel composite TiO <sub>2</sub> -Mn/Fe/Ni/Co	μSPE	pharmaceuticals	urine, plasma	LC-UV	[45]
	Si-β-CD <sup>4</sup>	off-line	PAHs <sup>5</sup>	river, well, rainwater	LC-FL	[47]
	Si-β-CD <sup>4</sup>	off-line	methyl jasmonate	salty plant extract	LC-UV	[48]
	MIP SiO <sub>2</sub> -TEOS <sup>6</sup> (oxindole)	on-line	paulatin	fruit, fruit juices	LC-UV	[49]
	MIP TEOS-TEPS-3-APTMS <sup>7</sup> (sulfonamides)	off-line	sulfonamide antibiotic	milk	LC-DAD	[50]
Mesoporous silica	MCM-41 <sup>8</sup>	off-line	PAHs <sup>5</sup>	ambient air	GC-MS	[51]
	SBA-15-C <sub>18</sub> -CO <sup>9</sup>	off-line	EDCs <sup>10</sup>	milk	LC-DAD	[52]
	SBA-15-NH <sub>2</sub> <sup>9</sup>	off-line	NSAIDs <sup>3</sup>	tap, river, wastewater	LC-UV	[53]
	MIP-SBA	off-line	bisphenol A	tap, well, wastewater	LC-UV	[54]
	KIT-6 <sup>11</sup>	off-line	pharmaceuticals	urine	LC-UV	[55]
	UVM-Ti25 <sup>12</sup>	off-line	organophosphorus	wastewater	GC-NPD <sup>13</sup>	[56]
	LDHs	Mg-Al-LDH (NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	dispersive	aromatic acids	urine, sports drinks	LC-UV
Ni-Fe-LDH (NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )		dispersive	haloacetic acids	drinking water	LC-MS/MS	[58]
Ni-Fe-LDH (NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )		μMEPS <sup>14</sup>	NSAIDs <sup>3</sup>	urine	LC-UV	[59]
yarn@PPy@Cu-Cr-Fe LDH		in-tube	phenols	honey	LC-UV	[60]
MOF	MIL-101 <sup>15</sup>	dispersive μSPE	pantoprozole	plasma	LC-UV	[61]
	MIL-68 <sup>15</sup>	pipette tip	sulfonamides	lake, milk, meat	LC-UV	[62]
	ZIF-8 <sup>16</sup>	μSPE	PAHs <sup>5</sup>	river	GC-MS	[63]
	HKUST-1 <sup>17</sup>	dispersive	herbicides	well water, soil, rice, tomato	IMS <sup>18</sup>	[64]
	HKUST-1 <sup>17</sup>	dispersive μSPE	parabens	tap, swimming, spa water, urine, cosmetic cream	LC-DAD	[65]
	MOF-199 embedded NMA-EDMA <sup>19</sup>	off-line	ursolic acid	Chinese herbal medicine	LC-UV	[66]
	UiO-66 <sup>20</sup>	dispersive μSPE	sialic acids	serum	LC-FL	[67]

<sup>1</sup> MTMOS-TEOS: methyltrimethoxysilane- tetraethyl orthosilicate; <sup>2</sup> MPTMS: mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane; <sup>3</sup> NSAIDs: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; <sup>4</sup> β-CD: β-cyclodextrine; <sup>5</sup> PAHs: polycyclic aromatic compounds; <sup>6</sup> TEOS: tetraethyl orthosilicate; <sup>7</sup> TEPS-3-APTMS: triethoxyphenylsilane-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane; <sup>8</sup> MCM41: Mobile Composition of Matter No. 41; <sup>9</sup> SBA: Santa Barbara Amorphous; <sup>10</sup> EDCs: endocrine disrupting compounds; <sup>11</sup> KIT-6: KoreaAdvanced Institute of Science and Technology-6; <sup>12</sup> UVM: Universidad Valencia mesoporous; <sup>13</sup> NPD: nitrogen-phosphorous detector; <sup>14</sup> MEPS: microextraction by packed syringe; <sup>15</sup> MIL: materials of Institute Lavoisier; <sup>16</sup> ZIF: zeolite imidazole framework; <sup>17</sup> HKUST: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; <sup>18</sup> IMS: ion mobility spectrometry; <sup>19</sup> NMA-EDMA: N-methylolacrylamide-ethylenedimethacrylate; <sup>20</sup> University of Oslo.



**Figure 2.** Representation of the reactions involved during the synthesis of a sol-gel hybrid organic-inorganic polymeric network, reproduced from [68] with permission from Elsevier, 2013.

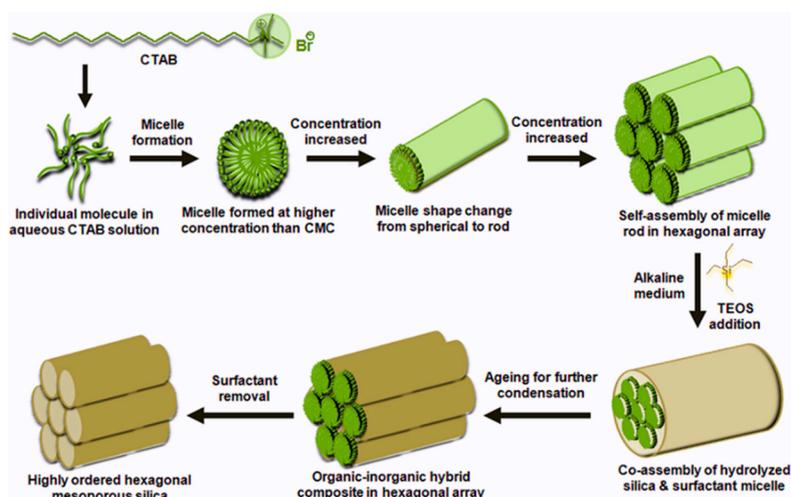
B-cyclodextrin materials that confer a certain degree of selectivity have been prepared using a similar sol-gel approach. For instance, Mauri-Acejo et al. [47] compared the efficiency of two materials, which either bound or included cyclodextrin on a microporous silica composite, for the retention of a group of PAHs. The authors found that with the bound approach, the losses of cyclodextrin were minimized, and thus, the sorbent’s performance was better than the previous cyclodextrin-silica sorbents that had also been prepared as part of the strategy.

Different molecularly-imprinted hybrid organic-inorganic materials have been prepared using a sol-gel process but adding the template molecules to the reaction mixture. For example, a MIP for the selective extraction of patulin (mycotoxin) was prepared using a silica gel precursor and TEOS along with a dummy template (oxindole). The prepared MIP was successfully tested in the on-line SPE-LC-UV to determine this mycotoxin in fruit samples [49]. Recently a multi-template MIP for sulfonamide antibiotic was prepared using a sol-gel approach in which 3-aminopropyl trimethoxysilane (3-APTMS) and phenyl triethoxysilane (PTES), as well as the different sulfonamide templates, were used as sol-gel precursors, together with TEOS as a crosslinking agent during the sol-gel process [50]. It was then evaluated in the selective determination of sulfonamides from milk samples. The method achieved good results and was able to determine and identify these drugs in milk samples quantitatively.

### 3.2. Mesoporous Silica Materials

Highly ordered mesoporous silica are also explored as SPE sorbents due to their easy functionalization, high adsorption properties, and fast sorption kinetics [69]. Silica-based mesoporous materials are prepared using molecular precursors through the sol-gel process, which involves the use of a neutral or charged surfactant (to act as a template) in aqueous solution or water-soluble polymer. The polymerization and condensation of the silica precursors result in hexagonal mesoporous materials. After this, the template is removed by calcination. Depending on the disposition of the template (surfactant) during the synthesis, two different synthetic approaches can be distinguished: a “true liquid crystal templating procedure” and a “cooperative self-assembly process”. Figure 3 shows the formation pathway of highly ordered mesoporous silica using the liquid crystal templating procedure. Regardless of the procedure, the properties of the mesoporous material can be tuned by modifying the synthetic parameters (pH and temperature) and the type of surfactant and additive [3,69]. Since the first ordered mesoporous silica known as MCM41 (Mobile Composition of Matter No. 41) was prepared, different materials have been developed, including Santa Barbara amorphous (SBA), Fudan University

(FDU) and hexagonal mesoporous silica (HMS). As an example, MCM41 was applied for the extraction of PAHs in ambient air, achieving similar results to those obtained using the polymeric-based sorbents XAD-2 and XAD-16 [51].



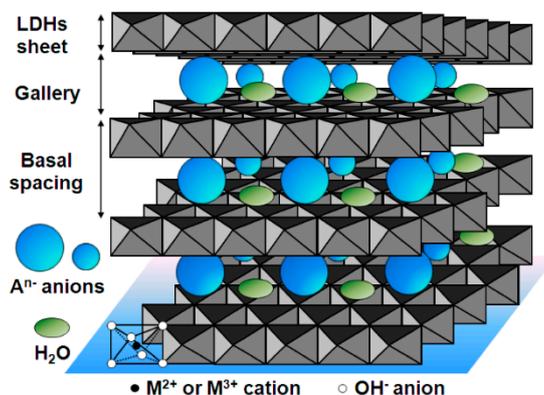
**Figure 3.** Schema of the formation of highly ordered mesoporous silica, reproduced from [70] with permission from Wiley, 2016.

In addition, the modification of the surface of the mesoporous silica further broadens the physical and chemical properties of these materials, expanding their applications. Table 2 shows some selected examples of the application of highly ordered mesoporous silica in SPE. For instance, a one-pot synthesized ordered mesoporous silica (SBA-15) functionalized with octadecyl groups (SBA-15-C<sub>18</sub>-CO) was tested as an SPE sorbent in the determination of 12 endocrine-disrupting compounds (EDCs) in milk [52]. The novel sorbent enabled the extraction of most of the compounds with recoveries ranging from 72% to 105%, results that are similar to those achieved with other extraction methods for the same compounds. SBA-15 was also functionalized with 3-[2-(2-aminoethylamino)ethylamino]propyl-trimethoxysilane (a silane with three amines) and then reacted with an excess of phenyl glycidyl ether to generate a mixed-mode anion-exchanger containing both anion-exchange (three amines) and reversed-phase (multiple ether-linked phenyls) functionalities in a single branched ligand [53]. This sorbent was successfully evaluated in the extraction of a group of acidic pharmaceuticals from environmental water samples, benefiting from both the reversed-phase and the SAX interactions between the sorbent and the analytes. Pellicer-Castell et al. [56] prepared different mesoporous silica sorbents (Universidad Valencia materials –UVM–), including pure, modified with cyclodextrins and doped with Ti and Fe (to tune the porosity of the original sorbent). Of these, a sorbent doped with Ti (UVM7-Ti25) presented the best porous properties, and thus, provided the best results for the extraction of a group of organophosphorus compounds from environmental water samples. Mesoporous silica have also been modified with dendrimers (macromolecules with highly repetitive branched structures) to obtain materials, combining the advantages of dendrimers (great functionalization) with the ease of separation of the solid support. Li et al. [55] adopted this strategy to prepare a sorbent for SPE that combined reversed-phase with anion-exchange interactions. This material was then applied to the extraction of a group of acidic drugs from urine and achieved good results that were attributed to the specific (anionic) interactions between the sorbent and the target analytes.

### 3.3. Layered Double Hydroxides

Layered double hydroxides (LDHs) are nanomaterials structured in a 2D form that consist of positively-charged layers of metal hydroxides separated by an interlayer region containing anions and some water molecules between layers [71,72]. Figure 4 shows a schematic overview

of LDHs. They usually contain both divalent and trivalent metal cations following the formula  $[M^{2+}_{1-x}M^{3+}_x(OH)_2][A^{n-}]_{x/n} \cdot zH_2O$ , where  $M^{2+}$  may be cations such as  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ , and  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $M^{3+}$  may be cations such as  $Al^{3+}$ ,  $Ga^{3+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$  and  $Mn^{3+}$ ,  $A^{n-}$  may be anions such as  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $RCO_2^-$ , and  $x$  is the mole fraction of  $M^{3+}$ . LDH features include a large SSA, diversity of chemical composition, anion exchange capabilities, and a water-resistant structure that makes them suitable SPE sorbents. It should be borne in mind that LDHs can provide different interaction mechanisms such as anion-exchange interactions, which means that the selectivity in complex samples can be further exploited. Furthermore, as LDHs are unstable at acidic pH, an interesting feature is that they can be dissolved in this acidic medium so that, once the extraction step has been carried out using LDH materials, the addition of acidic media dissolves the sorbent without any need for an elution step (which could be incomplete). Doing this means that the speed and efficiency of the overall SPE procedure are enhanced [57]. It should also be noted that because of this dissolvable feature, dispersive SPE (dSPE) is the most usual mode of extraction. This practice, using dissolvable LDHs, has been further exploited in various studies [71,73]. Table 2 shows some selected examples of the application of LDHs in SPE. For instance, dissolvable Mg-Al LDHs (using  $NO_3^-$ ,  $Cl^-$  and  $CO_3^{2-}$  as anions) were applied in dSPE to extract a group of aromatic acids from urine and sports drink samples [57] and haloacetic acids from drinking water [58]. In another example, Ni-Fe LDH-based sorbent using  $Ni(NO_3)_2$  and  $Fe(NO_3)_3$ , was prepared, followed by urea hydrolysis using coprecipitation [59]. It was then applied in the  $\mu$ SPE by packed sorbent in which 8 mg of particles was inserted in a spinal syringe connected to a syringe pump. Using an optimized SPE protocol, the target analytes (NSAIDs) were successfully extracted, yielding recoveries within the range 53–92%. The method was then applied to extract NSAIDs from different urine samples with results outperforming those already reported using other extraction materials [59].

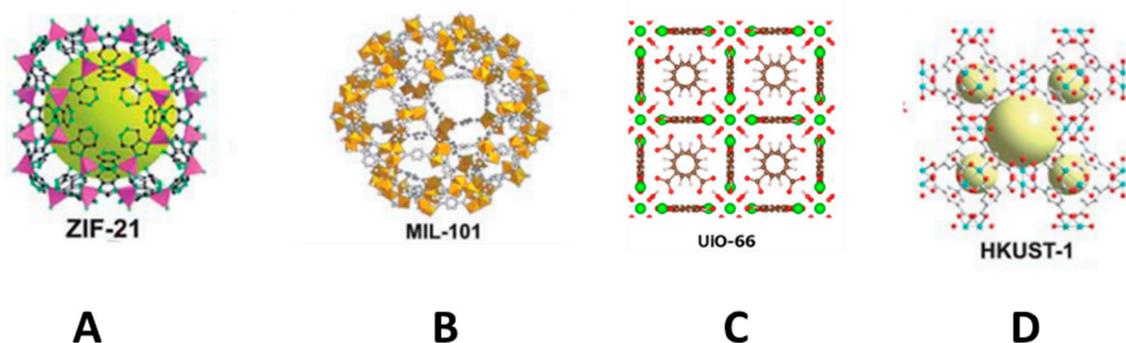


**Figure 4.** Schema of the representation of layered double hydroxides (LDHs), reproduced from [72] with permission from MDPI, 2014.

### 3.4. Metal-Organic Frameworks

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are porous coordination polymers consisting of transition metal clusters and organic ligands that create 3D organic-inorganic hybrid networks [71,74]. There are different types of MOF—a schema of which is shown in Figure 5—that include a zeolite imidazole framework (ZIF) (Figure 5A), metal atoms linked with imidazolate and functionalized imidazolate ligands through a nitrogen atom, materials of Institut Lavoisier (MILs) (Figure 5B) based on trivalent metal centers and carboxylic acid bridging ligands, materials of University of Oslo (UiO) (Figure 5C) that consist of a building block based on zirconium, and materials of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) (Figure 5D), which is a 3D structure based on copper. Although they have different properties, in general terms, they all share high porosity as a result of their nanoscale cavities and high SSA, plus good thermal and chemical stability. These properties make MOFs excellent candidates for various applications in the area of sample preparation. However, as the direct use of MOFs as nano/microcrystals presents a number of limitations when packing in an SPE cartridge or in

dSPE (since this involves centrifugation and filtration) due to their small particle size and nonspherical shape, they should be combined with different supports in order to be readily applied as SPE materials. These strategies have also been extensively used to prepare materials for other sorptive extraction techniques, such as SPME and membrane-based techniques [3,71,74]. Table 2 lists some examples of the use of MOFs in SPE, as well as those combined with different supports for the same use.



**Figure 5.** Representative examples of metal-organic framework (MOFs). ZIF-21 (A), MIL-101 (B), and HKUST-1 (D) reproduced from [75] with permission from The Royal Society of Chemistry, 2010; and UIO-66 (C), reproduced from [76] with permission from Elsevier, 2016.

MOFs are generally applied in dSPE mode [61,64,65,67]. For example, HUSKT-1 (based on a copper-benzene-1,3,5-tricarboxylate framework) was used as sorbent in dSPE combined with ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) for the preconcentration of herbicide from water, soil, and agricultural-product samples. The sorbent showed high stability and reusability and high recoveries (94–108%) with a preconcentration factor of 20 [64]. MOFs embedded in polymeric monoliths is another strategy, which has mainly been used in SPME and other extraction techniques, but also SPE. For instance, a monolithic column based on N-methyloacrylamide (NMA) and EDMA were used as the host material for embedding MOF-199 (copper-1,3,5-benzenetricarboxylate). By incorporating the MOF particles, the SSA and permeability of the monolith improved significantly. It was then applied in on-line SPE-LC-UV to determine ursolic acid from Chinese herbal medicine with successful results in terms of recovery, reproducibility, and accuracy [66]. Other approaches have been based on incorporating the MOFs into beads, which in most cases, are magnetic. One such case was the incorporation of MIL-100(Fe) into  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles for application in magnetic SPE [77]. In a more sophisticated stage, Maya et al. [78] prepared MOF in the form of core-shell particles through the immobilization of precursor metal oxides followed by their in situ conversion into MOF by reaction with the appropriate organic linker. In this case [78], in the first instance, a layer of ZnO is coated onto cation exchange PS beads to obtain ZnO@PS precursor beads, which are then reacted with an organic linker (2-methylimidazole) to obtain ZIF-8@ZnO@PS. The authors compared the performance of these beads in the extraction of a group of EDCs from water samples with that achieved with the beads obtained when ZIF-8 was directly immobilized in the polymer beads. They found that the extraction performance was much lower than that obtained with the in situ conversion approach.

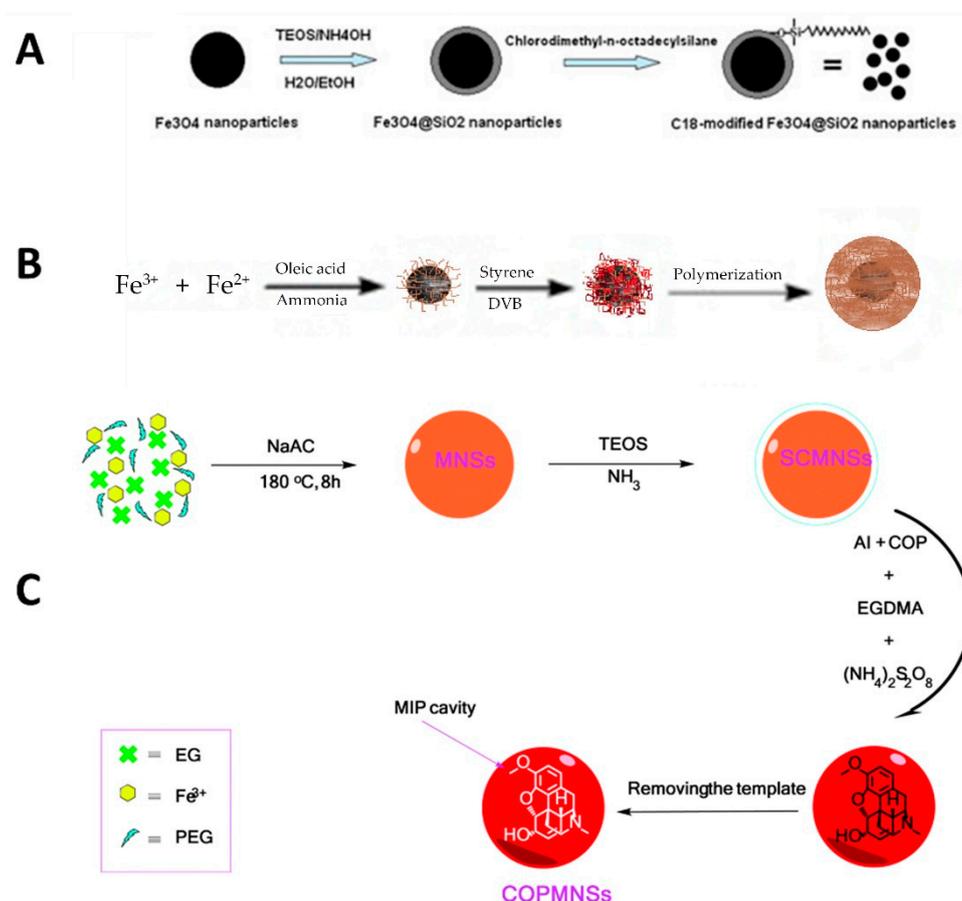
MOFs have also been used as precursors or as part of other sorptive materials, such as metallic nanoparticles and porous magnetic carbons. These are covered in the following sections of this review.

### 3.5. Metallic Nanoparticles

Metallic nanoparticles (NPs), including  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , among others, in bare form or modified with different functional coatings, are particularly characterized by their large SSA, which gives rise to high sorption capacity. There are also magnetic NPs (MNPs) that mainly contain iron, nickel, and cobalt and their oxides, with magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) and maghemite ( $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) being the most popular. MNPs are especially useful because of the strong magnetic properties that make NPs easy to isolate using an external magnetic field without the need for centrifugation and filtration [73,79].

These features make MNPs very straightforward for use in dSPE, also known as magnetic SPE (MSPE), making them the main SPE mode used. Table 3 lists some selected examples where MNPs are used in dSPE.

Different types of coating have been applied to the surface of NPs and MNPs, including polymer-based, silica-based, MOFs, multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs), and graphene (G) or graphene oxide (GO). One of the most frequently used is coated with silica ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$ ) and functionalized with different moieties, such as the  $\text{C}_{18}$  groups ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2\text{-C}_{18}$ ) [79,80]. MNPs are covered in different sections of this review, and examples of their applications can be found in Table 3. In the present section, we focus on the preparation and application of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2\text{-C}_{18}$  as an example of one of the most popular MNPs. Figure 6A shows the schematic procedure for obtaining  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2\text{-C}_{18}$ . This comprises three steps: (1) the magnetite was prepared from ferric chloride, (2) the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  NPs obtained were then treated with TEOS to start the sol-gel process, and (3) finally, the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$  NPs were reacted with chlorodimethyl-n-octadecylsilane to obtain the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2\text{-C}_{18}$ . In the case studied here [81], these MNPs based on  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2\text{-C}_{18}$  were applied to the extraction of a corticosteroid from rat plasma using the MSPE mode, achieving high recoveries thanks to the contribution of the hydrophobic part ( $\text{C}_{18}$  chains) that strongly interacts with the target compound.



**Figure 6.** Schema of the synthetic procedure for obtaining (A)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2\text{-C}_{18}$ , (B)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{PS-DVB}$ , and (C)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$ -polymer-MIP. Reproduced from [81] and [82] with permission from Elsevier, 2010 and 2012, respectively; and from [85] with permission from The Royal Society of Chemistry, 2016.

**Table 3.** Examples of the applications of metallic nanoparticle materials in SPE.

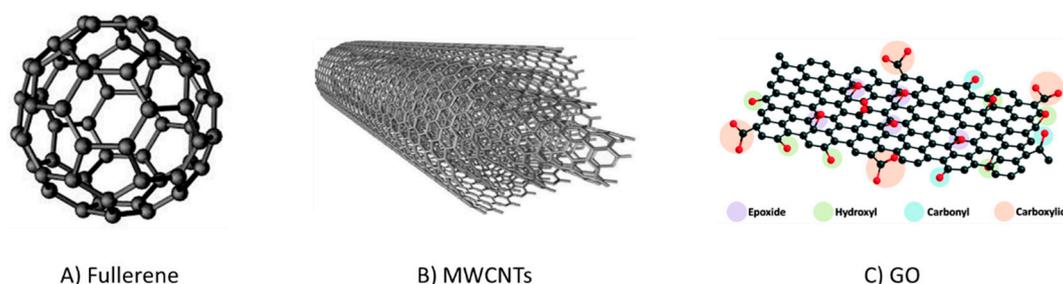
Type	Material	SPE Mode	Compounds	Sample	Instrumental Technique	Reference
Silica-based	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @SiO <sub>2</sub> -C <sub>18</sub>	magnetic	corticosteroid	plasma	LC-UV	[81]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @SiO <sub>2</sub> -C <sub>18</sub>	magnetic	pesticides	pond water	GC-MS	[86]
LDH	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @SiO <sub>2</sub> -MIP	magnetic	codeine	urine	LC-UV	[85]
	Fe@Mg-Al-LDH	magnetic	bisphenol A, nonylphenol	river, wastewater	LC-UV	[87]
MOF	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @MIL-100	magnetic $\mu$ SPE	PAHs <sup>1</sup>	tap, well, pond water	LC-FD	[77]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @ZIF-8	magnetic	EDC <sup>2</sup>	drinking water	LC-UV	[78]
Polymer-based	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @PS-DVB	magnetic	fenitrothion	water, urine	UV	[82]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @polyaniline	magnetic $\mu$ SPE	benzodiazepines	tap, river, well, lake water, plasma, urine	LC-UV	[83]
Carbon-based	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @polypyrrole	magnetic $\mu$ SPE	antidepressant drugs	plasma, urine	LC-UV	[84]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C <sub>60</sub> fullerenes	magnetic	azodyes	wastewater	CE-UV	[88]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @MWCNTs <sup>3</sup>	magnetic	aconitites	serum	LC-DAD	[89]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @GO <sup>4</sup>	magnetic	PAHs <sup>1</sup>	urine	LC-MS	[90]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @SiO <sub>2</sub> @GO@IL <sup>5</sup>	magnetic	chlorophenols	tap water	LC-MS/MS	[91]
	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @GO@hemimicelles	magnetic	PFAS <sup>6</sup>	river, wastewater	LC-MS/MS	[92]

<sup>1</sup> PAHs: polycyclic aromatic compounds; <sup>2</sup> EDCs: endocrine disrupting compounds; <sup>3</sup> MWCNTs: multiwalled carbon nanotubes; <sup>4</sup> GO: graphene oxide; <sup>5</sup> IL: ionic liquid; <sup>6</sup> PFAS: perfluoroalkyl substances.

Other authors have included the polymeric shell in the magnetite core so as to obtain polymeric MNPs. Figure 6B shows a schema of the synthetic procedure used to obtain  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@PS\text{-DVB}$  MNPs. Essentially, once the magnetite was prepared, it was mixed with the monomer mixture to polymerize under the polymerization conditions [82]. This procedure is easy to achieve, but the authors found that these  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@PS\text{-DVB}$  MNPs showed weak magnetic properties during the MSPE procedure. This was solved by adding bare MNPs to the extraction mixture to provide faster and more efficient precipitation of the polymeric MNPs from the extraction mixture. After this, the performance of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@PS\text{-DVB}$  MNPs to extract a group of pesticides from different types of the sample was successfully achieved [82]. Other polymeric coatings have also been prepared in MNP, using polyaniline [83] and pyrrolidone, for example [84]. MIPs have also been prepared using magnetite as the core in order for the MNPs generated to have selectivity when applied in MSPE procedures. For instance, a MIP MNPs was developed for the selective extraction of codeine from urine [85]. In this case, magnetite was first coated with silica; then these  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2$  MNPs were reacted with the functional monomer, the crosslinking agent and the template in order to generate cavities in shape and form, able to interact with the target compound specifically. Figure 6C shows the schema of this synthetic procedure.

#### 4. Carbon-Based Materials

Carbon exists in various allotropic forms ranging from the classical GCBs and PGCs to fullerenes, carbon nanotubes (CNTs), carbon nanofibers, carbon nanodisks, G, and GO, among others. However, fullerenes, CNTs, G and GO are mainly used for other analytical applications rather than SPE. Figure 7 presents their structures, and Table 4 summarizes their most relevant applications as sorbents for SPE. They have been explored as SPE materials due to their features of chemical and thermal stability, ordered porosity, and high SSA, which promote high sorption capacity towards the analytes [93]. The development of new carbon-based materials for sample preparation has recently been reported. These use the carbonization of low-cost commercially available polymers or biomass to reduce production costs that have been also reported [71]. For example, biomass-derived hierarchically porous carbon was prepared by hydrothermal treatment and the carbonization of banana peel. It was then applied as SPE sorbent for the extraction of carbamate pesticides from watermelon and cucumber with good results thanks to the respectable SSA (ca.  $500\text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ) that promoted interactions with the target compounds [94].



**Figure 7.** Examples of carbon nanomaterials used in SPE. Fullerene, (A); multi wallet carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs), (B); graphene oxide (GO), (C).

##### 4.1. Fullerenes

Fullerenes are polyhedral nanostructures made up of 5–6 membered carbon rings in the form of a hollow sphere, tube, or ellipsoid (Figure 7A). Due to their extreme insolubility in aqueous or organic media, their use is very limited. However, their lower aggregation predisposition simplifies their application in SPE. In one of the earliest studies [95] on  $C_{60}$  fullerenes, their SPE performance was compared to that of Tenax TA and  $C_{18}$  sorbents for the extraction of BTEX compounds from the sea and wastewater samples. The results for  $C_{60}$  fullerenes revealed that they were better in terms of the preconcentration factor achieved as well as for their precision and reusability.  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -activated

carbon, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-fullerene, and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-activated carbon-fullerene nanomaterials were prepared for the extraction of a group of azo dyes from wastewater samples [88]. In this comparison, 5 mg of each material was dispersed in the sample to conduct dSPE under optimized conditions. The best recoveries were achieved by the mixed material (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-activated carbon-fullerene) since it provided more diverse interactions ( $\pi$ - $\pi$ , hydrophobic) and spatial distribution with the analytes compared to the individual forms.

#### 4.2. Carbon Nanotubes

CNTs are formed by rolling graphene sheets into a cylindrical shape. Single-walled CNTs (SWCNTs) are based on one sheet, whereas those with more than one sheet are known as MWCNTs (Figure 7B). Their main properties as sorbents are their high SSA that enables  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions, and the easy functionalization of their surface chemistry with different functional groups [93]. The performance of MWCNT sorbent was compared to that of C<sub>18</sub> silica and activated carbon for the SPE of a group of pesticides from different surface water samples [96]. The results indicated that the MWCNT showed better enrichment performance. Specifically, apart from its high SSA, the sorbent interacts strongly with the benzene rings of carbamates thanks to the surface of the MWCNT being made up of hexagonal arrays of carbon atoms in graphene sheets. MWCNT composites and their surface modification have also been explored via chemical treatment with various reagents. The purpose of this is to improve their adsorption properties and extraction efficiency further. Lalovic et al. [97] compared the performance of bare MWCNTs and those modified with acidic or basic reagents (i.e., HCl, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and NaOH) for the extraction of multi-class pharmaceuticals from environmental water. It was found that treatment with HCl decreases the content of oxygen groups on the surface and thus reduces the number of electron-acceptor groups, which favors extraction efficiency towards the target compounds.

#### 4.3. Graphene and Graphene Oxide

G's structure is a thin honeycomb lattice of carbon atoms, while GO has the same structure but containing multi-functional groups such as carboxyl, hydroxyl, and epoxides (Figure 7C), which can be further reduced to convert into reduced GO (rGO). These materials exhibit high SSA (>2000 m<sup>2</sup>/g), high mechanical strength, and thermal conductivity, and in addition, GO exhibits high polarizability. In spite of these properties, the application of G as a sorbent is limited due to its lower water dispersibility. GO overcomes this limitation and is more frequently used in sample preparation. For instance, GO was applied as material in the SPE combined with electromembrane extraction (EME) followed by capillary electrophoresis (CE) for the determination of chlorphen oxyacid herbicides in environmental water samples [98]. In a further step, the GO framework (GOF) consisting of layers of GO interconnected by linkers such as boric acid was developed. Li et al. [99] synthesized GOF using 1,4-phenyldiboric acid as the linker, which was then successfully evaluated as material in SPE for the extraction of phenylurea herbicides in celery and lake water samples.

In addition, the synthesis of hybrid materials produced by G- or GO-bound silica (i.e., G@silica) or composite materials produced by combining with different inorganic and organic materials have been also proposed [79,100]. For instance, GO grafted with SiO<sub>2</sub> (GO@SiO<sub>2</sub>) was used in dSPE for the extraction of phenolic acid from urine. Excellent recoveries (up to 95%) were achieved with a small mass of material (20 mg) [101]. A composite of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@SiO<sub>2</sub>@GO was further modified with ionic liquid (IL) and successfully applied in the preconcentration of a group of polar and non-polar chlorophenols from the tap, well, and river water prior to their determination by LC-MS/MS [91].

**Table 4.** Examples of the applications of carbon-based materials in SPE.

Type	Material	SPE Mode	Compounds	Sample	Instrumental Technique	Reference
Fullerenes	C <sub>60</sub>	on-line	BTEX <sup>1</sup>	sea, wastewater	GC-MS	[95]
	SiO <sub>2</sub> -C <sub>60</sub>	dispersive	peptides	serum	MALDI-TOF-MS <sup>2</sup>	[102]
Carbon nanotubes	SWCNTs <sup>3</sup>	SPE	salicylic acid	river	CE-UV	[103]
	MWCNTs <sup>4</sup>	SPE	carbamate pesticides	tap, river water	LC-MS	[96]
	SiO <sub>2</sub> -MWCNTs	SPE	nucleosides, nucleobases	urine	LC-DAD	[104]
	MWCNTs <sup>4</sup> -HCl	dispersive	pharmaceuticals	surface, groundwater	LC-MS/MS	[97]
Graphene	G <sup>5</sup>	dispersive	carbamate pesticides	fruit juice	LC-MS/MS	[105]
	GO <sup>6</sup>	SPE	herbicides	river, seawater	CE-UV	[98]
	SiO <sub>2</sub> -GO	dispersive	phenolic acids	urine	LC-UV	[101]
	GO-1,4-PDBA <sup>7</sup>	SPE	herbicides	pond water, celery	LC-DAD	[99]

<sup>1</sup> BTEX: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene; <sup>2</sup> MALDI-TOF: matrix-assisted laser desorption-time-of-flight; <sup>3</sup> SWCNTs: single-walled carbon nanotubes; <sup>4</sup> MWCNTs: multiwalled carbon nanotubes; <sup>5</sup> G: graphene; <sup>6</sup> GO: graphene oxide; <sup>7</sup> 1,4-PDBA: 1,4-phenyldiboric acid.

## 5. Other Materials

### 5.1. Silicates

Minerals such as clays have been proposed as materials for sample preparation due to their low cost. However, their characteristic shape and size make them more suitable for use as a support or in disperse mode rather than to be used directly in SPE. Montmorillonite (MMT), a layered silicate that has been used as a strengthening material for polymers due to its high SSA, was applied as support to prepare magnetic particles coated with C<sub>16</sub>-silica using the sol-gel approach [106]. Fifty mg of material was then applied in dSPE to extract bisphenol A from a 50 mL water sample from environmentally different origins such as leachate, river, and well water, achieving complete recoveries (95–98%) and enrichment factors greater than 30.

Zeolites are another type of silicate that present similar properties and limitations as clays. Their main application in sample preparation is as a support or in dispersed mode. For instance, zeolite NaY modified with polyaniline through in-situ oxidative polymerization was prepared to be applied for the preconcentration of multi-class pesticides using dSPE in environmental and fruit samples, with recoveries of the target compounds ranging between 64–128% [107]. Zeolite in the form of networks is a subclass of MOF (see Section 3.4), and other zeolites used in sorptive extraction techniques can be found in specific reviews [71,108].

### 5.2. Natural Sorbents

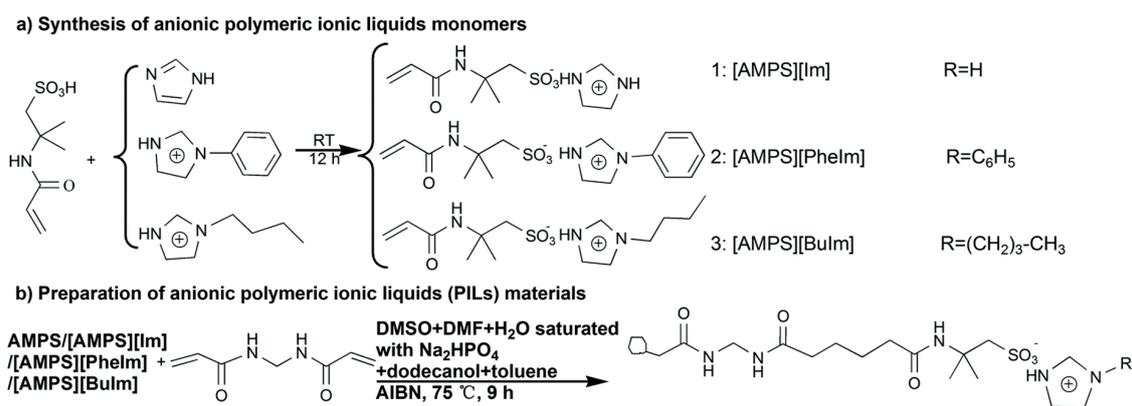
Cotton wool (500 µg) was inserted into SPE micro tips for the purification of glycan and glycopeptides from biological samples for subsequent mass spectrometric detection. The results revealed the removal of salts and nonglycosylated peptides, among other things, leading to the successful determination of the target compounds [109]. Pollen with a high hydroxyl content and chemically stable was also explored as an SPE sorbent in the enrichment of plant growth regulators in fruits and vegetables [110]. Its morphological properties (SSA 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g and 30–40 µm particle size) and suitable chemical properties (presence of hydroxyl moieties) made this natural material suitable for the extraction and purification of the target compounds. Cigarette filters were also used as a sorbent to solid-phase extract a group of organophosphorus and organochlorine pesticides from environmental samples before gas chromatography with mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis. For the performance, 120 mg of cigarette filter was packed in a cartridge, and the SPE procedure was conducted as usual. When 100 mL of water was percolated through the cartridge, the recoveries of all the target analytes

were greater than 76% and comparable to those obtained with a C<sub>18</sub> sorbent. The method provided suitable limits of detection to monitor their presence in the samples analyzed [111].

### 5.3. Ionic Liquids-Based Sorbents

Supported ILs (SILs) and polymeric ILs (PILs) that provide hydrogen bonding, dipole–dipole, and ionic interactions with the analytes have also been used as SPE materials. Silica particles modified with N-methylimidazolium L-prolate (NMIM-Pro@SiO<sub>2</sub>) are an example of a SIL. NMIM-Pro@SiO<sub>2</sub> was applied for the extraction of polyphenols from green tea leaves and showed a high sorption capacity and selectivity [112]. Post-modification of polymeric supports such as VBC-DVB with N-methylimidazolium was also proposed and applied as SPE sorbent for the extraction of a group of pharmaceuticals through the ion-exchange interactions that take place between the sorbent and the analytes [113].

Another approach is to prepare a PIL composed of IL-based monomers. For example, a series of 2-acrylamido-2-methyl propane sulfonate [AMPS<sup>-</sup>] combined with imidazolium [IM<sup>+</sup>], phenylimidazolium [PhIM<sup>+</sup>], butylimidazolium [BuIM<sup>+</sup>] and N,N-methylenebisacrylamide (MBAA) as crosslinkers was prepared and applied in protein adsorption experiments [114]. Figure 8 shows a schematic illustration of the preparation of these PIL materials. In another example, 1-vinyl-3-butylimidazolium chloride was copolymerized with EDMA to prepare a MIP selective for chlorsulfuron [115]. This MIP was further evaluated to determine chlorsulfuron from water samples by on-line SPE-LC-UV and achieved recoveries greater than 80%. Several other examples of ILs as materials for SPE can be found in reviews of the subject [116,117].



**Figure 8.** Examples of the schematic illustration of the preparation of polymeric ionic liquid (PIL) materials, reproduced from [114] with a permission from The Royal Society of Chemistry, 2017.

### 5.4. Electrospun Nanofibers

Electrospun nanofibers (NFs) generated using the electrospinning technique (which produces polymers with nanoscale fibrous structures) have a high SSA with various chemical properties thanks to pre- or post-electrospinning modification processes. Most of the electrospun nanofibers used in SPE are based on either PS (low mechanical strength) or Nylon-6 (high mechanical strength). PS was used to prepare electrospun NFs with the resulting material evaluated in packed-fiber SPE (0.3 mg of PS NFs packed in a 200  $\mu$ L pipette tip) mode for the extraction of Trazadone from a plasma sample. This approach is claimed to be cost- and time-effective, as well as, selective and sensitive [118]. In order to enhance the features of NFs, their combination with polymers has also been explored. For example, Bagheri et al. [119] developed a blend of polypyrrole and Nylon-6, which combines the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions promoted by polypyrrole as well as the polar interaction promoted by Nylon-6. The polypyrrole/Nylon-6 composite was applied in  $\mu$ SPE to isolate malathion from aqueous samples. The method that includes  $\mu$ SPE followed by GC-MS proved to be quite good, providing sufficient

sensitivity and good reproducibility. More details on the preparation of NFs and their application as SPE materials can be found in reviews on this subject [120,121].

Apart from the materials described in the previous sections, other materials have also been developed. However, they are not described in the present review because their main application involves other sorptive microextraction techniques, such as SPME, SBSE, and MEPS instead of SPE, which is the sorptive technique explored in this review. Readers can consult other reviews or book chapters that cover these subjects more thoroughly.

## 6. Conclusions

The research in the development of different materials for SPE classically categorized as silica-based, carbon-based, and polymer-based is a continuously evolving field to improve their chemical and morphological features.

Apart from the traditional material developments, other new materials such as organic-inorganic hybrid materials, carbon nanomaterials, metallic nanoparticles, metal-organic frameworks, among others, have been recently introduced and successfully applied as SPE materials.

In view of the emergence of novel materials in recent years, as well as those already well established for years, it should be anticipated that advances in sorbent technology for SPE in particular—and sorptive extraction techniques in general—could become a never-ending field of research.

**Funding:** The authors would like to thank the Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Competitividad, the Agencia Estatal de Investigación, and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (Project: CTQ2017-88548-P) for the financial support received.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## Abbreviations

1,4-PDBA	1,4-phenyldiboric acid
2-AMPS	2-acrylamido-2-methyl propane sulfonate
3-APTNS	3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane
4VP	4-vinylpyridine
BTEX	benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene
BuIM	butylimidazolium
CE	capillary electrophoresis
CNTs	carbon nanotubes
DAD	diode array detector
DEAEMA	2-(diethylamino)ethyl methacrylate
DMEA	N,N-dimethylethanolamine
dSPE	dispersive solid-phase extraction
DVB	divinylbenzene
EDCs	endocrine disrupting compounds
EDMA	ethylenglycol dimethacrylate
EME	eletromembrane extraction
FDU	Fudan University
FL	fluorescence detector
G	graphene
GC	gas chromatography
GCB	graphitized carbon blacks
GMA	glycidyl methacrylate
GO	graphene oxide
GOF	graphene oxide framework
HEMA	2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate
HKUST	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
HMS	hexagonal mesoporous silica

HXL	hypercrosslinked
ILs	ionic liquids
IM	imidazolium
IMS	ion mobility spectrometry
KIT-6	KoreaAdvanced Institute of Science and Technology-6
LC	liquid chromatography
LDHs	layered double hydroxides
MAA	methacrylic acid
MALDI	matrix assisted laser desorption
MBAA	N,N-methylenebisacrylamide
MCM	Mobile Composition of Matter
MEPS	microextraction by packed syringe
MIL	materials of Institute Lavoisier
MIPs	molecularly imprinted polymers
MMT	montmorillonite
MNPs	magnetic nanoparticles
MOFs	metal-organic frameworks
MS	mass spectrometry
MS/MS	tandem mass spectrometry
MSPE	magnetic solid-phase extraction
MTMOS	methyltrimethoxysilane
MWCNTs	multi-walled carbon nanotubes
NFs	nanofibers
NMA	N-methylolacrylamide
NMIM	N-methylimidazolium
NPs	nanoparticles
NSAIDs	nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
NVIm	N-vinylimidazole
NVP	N-vinylpyrrolidone
PAHs	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PBDEs	polybrominated diphenyl ethers
PCBs	polychlorinated bisphenyls
PETRA	pentaerythritol triacrylate
PFAS	perfluoroalkyl substances
PFCAs	polyfluorinated carboxylic acids
PGC	porous graphitic carbon
PhIM	phenylimidazolium
PILs	polymeric ILs
PS	polystyrene
QTOF	quadrupole time of flight
rGO	reduced graphene oxide
SAX	strong anion exchanger
SBA	Santa Barbara Amorphous
SBSE	stir bar sorptive extraction
SCX	strong cation exchanger
SILs	supported ILs
SPE	solid-phase extraction
SPME	solid-phase microextraction
SSA	specific surface area
SWCNTs	single-walled carbon nanotubes
TEOS	tetraethoxysilane
TEPS	triethoxyphenylsilane
TMOS	tetramethoxysilane
TOF	time-of-flight
UiO	University of Oslo

UV	ultraviolet
UVM	Universidad Valencia mesoporous
VBC	vinylbenzyl chloride
WAX	weak anion exchanger
WCX	weak cation exchanger
ZIF	zeolite imidazole framework

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