acetals

Compounds having the structure \( \text{R}_2\text{C(OR')}_2 \) (\( R' \neq H \)) and thus diethers of geminal diols. Originally, the term was confined to derivatives of aldehydes (one \( R = H \)), but it now applies equally to derivatives of ketones (neither \( R = H \)). Mixed acetals have different \( R' \) groups.

**See also:** acetonides, ketals, acylals, hemiacetals

**Source:**
PAC, 1995, 67, 1307 (*Glossary of class names of organic compounds and reactivity intermediates based on structure (IUPAC Recommendations 1995)*) on page 1310