

Writing Formulae

Chemistry

Deriving a formula from ion charges, and the polyatomic ions to know.

Common polyatomic ions.

Ion	Formula	Charge
Hydroxide	OH	-1
Nitrate	NO ₃	-1
Carbonate	CO ₃	-2
Sulfate	SO ₄	-2
Phosphate	PO ₄	-3
Ammonium	NH ₄	+1
Hydrogencarbonate	HCO ₃	-1

Calcium (2+) and nitrate (1-) give Ca(NO₃)₂ — brackets because the whole ion is doubled, not the nitrogen.