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Removal of hexavalent chromium from aqueous solution by different surface-modified biochars:

Acid washing, nanoscale zero-valent iron and ferric iron loading

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Abstract: Willow residue biochar (BC) and modified biochars (hydrochloric acid washing (HBC), HBC loaded with nanoscale zero-valent iron (nZVI-HBC), and HBC loaded with ferric iron (Fe³⁺-HBC)) after aging were used for aqueous Cr(VI) removal. HBC (> 98.67%), nZVI-HBC (> 98.86%), and Fe³⁺-HBC (> 99.64%) kept high Cr(VI) removal rates under the acidic conditions within a wide pH range (< 7.0), indicating their good adaptability to pH change because of aging. Cr(VI) reduction to Cr(III) was the dominant removal mechanism. The formation of –COOH on BC, HBC, and nZVI-HBC indicates the oxidation of surface functional groups by Cr(VI) and simultaneous Cr(VI) reduction. The disappearance of nZVI peaks indicates the reduction of

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