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workover

1. n. [Drilling]

The repair or [stimulation](#) of an existing [production](#) well for the purpose of restoring, prolonging or enhancing the production of hydrocarbons.

See: [hydrocarbon](#)

2. n. [Well Workover and Intervention]

The process of performing major maintenance or remedial treatments on an oil or gas well. In many cases, workover implies the removal and replacement of the [production](#) tubing string after the well has been killed and a workover [rig](#) has been placed on location. [Through-tubing](#) workover operations, using [coiled tubing](#), [snubbing](#) or [slickline](#) equipment, are routinely conducted to complete treatments or well service activities that avoid a full workover where the tubing is removed. This operation saves considerable time and expense.

See: [gas well](#), [kill](#), [oil well](#), [production string](#), [production tubing](#)

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chelating agent

1. n. [Well Completions, Well Workover and Intervention, Drilling Fluids]

A chemical used to bind metal ions to form a ring structure. Chelating agents stabilize or prevent the [precipitation](#) of damaging compounds. In the oil [field](#), chelating agents are used in [stimulation](#) treatments and for cleaning surface facilities. They are also used to treat or remove [scale](#) or weighting agents in [reservoir](#) drilling fluids. During [acid](#) or scale-removal treatments, various compounds may be dissolved in the [treatment fluid](#). As the acid reacts and the [pH](#) increases, reaction products may [precipitate](#) as a gelatinous, insoluble mass. Should this occur within the [formation matrix](#), it is almost impossible to remove and permanent [permeability damage](#) may occur. Chelating agents prevent precipitation by keeping ions in a soluble form until the treatment fluid can be flowed back from the formation during [cleanup](#). Typical [oilfield](#) chelating agents include [EDTA](#) (ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid), HEDTA (hydroxyethylenediamine triacetic acid), NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid), and [citric acid](#).

See: [acetic acid](#), [chelation](#), [sequestering agent](#)

2. n. [Well Workover and Intervention, Well Completions]

A chemical added to an [acid](#) to stabilize iron. The injected acid dissolves iron from rust, millscale, iron scales or iron-containing minerals in the [formation](#). Iron can exist as ferric iron [Fe^{+3}] or ferrous iron [Fe^{+2}]. If the iron is not controlled, it will [precipitate](#) insoluble products such as ferric hydroxide and, in [sour](#) environments, [ferrous sulfide](#) [FeS], which will [damage](#) the formation. Chelating agents associate with iron [Fe^{+3} or Fe^{+2}] to form soluble complexes. [Citric acid](#), acetic acid, and [EDTA](#) are effective chelating agents and can be used at temperatures up to 400 degF [204 degC].

Synonyms: [sequestering agent](#)

See: [reducing agent](#)

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