

Supplementary Materials: Chemical Adsorption of HF, HCl, and H₂O onto YF₃ and Isostructural HoF₃ Surfaces by First Principles

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1. Computational Method Validation

1.1. Potential Files

We used the hard potential files for atoms available as recommended by VASP for very small bond distances, as e.g. the case for H–F, a central molecule of this study. We tested the effect of the hard potential files F_h and H_h vs. the normal ones F and H while keeping all other parameters, including the kinetic cutoff value constant as given in computational details. The first test system is the simple free, molecular HF in vacuum, which we need to calculate ΔE_{bond} of the adsorbed systems. When using the hard potential files, a bond distance of $R_{\text{H-F}} = 93.15$ pm is obtained. With the normal potential files, the bond elongates significantly by 0.62 pm. According to NIST, the experimental bond length is $R_{\text{H-F}} = 91.68$ pm [2] or by calculation e.g. 91.7 pm at the CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVQZ level [1]. Consequently, the bond elongation equals a worse description.

We also tested the effect onto the surfaces by single point calculations with the normal potential files onto bare (100) and adsorbed (100)·HF isomer c (see Figure S5 c) built and relaxed at the hard potential file setup as described in the computational details. The adsorption energy obtained by applying the normal potential files is by -3.4 kJ·mol⁻¹ or

4% stronger. Thus the normal vs. hard potential files also have a considerable effect on the adsorption energies.

1.2. Supercell Size

To ensure isolated adsorptions with non-interacting adsorbates, we tested supercell sizes ($n \times m \times p$) with $n, m, p = \{1 - 3\}$ UC onto the (010) surface with a single HF or H₂O molecule adsorbed. Note that each (010) UC corresponds to $(2 \times 1 \times 2)$ YF₃-layers. The atomic positions of the adsorbate and the first YF₃-layer are relaxed. All other parameters equal those given within in the computational details for the isolated adsorption setup of the main paper.

Table S1. Scope of supercell size convergence onto the (010) YF₃ surface with a single adsorbate. Each column gives the supercell thickness in unit cell copies (UC) and YF₃-layers perpendicular to the surface. The supercells of 1 UC thickness are done for a single adsorbate of HF or H₂O:

| YF ₃ ·HF + YF ₃ ·H ₂ O | | YF ₃ ·HF | | YF ₃ ·HF | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| UC | layer | UC | layer | UC | layer |
| $1 \times 1 \times 1$ | $2 \times 1 \times 2$ | $1 \times 1 \times 2$ | $2 \times 1 \times 4$ | $1 \times 1 \times 3$ | $2 \times 1 \times 6$ |
| $2 \times 2 \times 1$ | $4 \times 2 \times 2$ | $2 \times 2 \times 2$ | $4 \times 2 \times 4$ | $2 \times 2 \times 3$ | $4 \times 2 \times 6$ |
| $2 \times 3 \times 1$ | $4 \times 3 \times 2$ | $2 \times 3 \times 2$ | $4 \times 3 \times 4$ | $2 \times 3 \times 3$ | $4 \times 3 \times 6$ |
| | | $3 \times 3 \times 2$ | $6 \times 3 \times 4$ | | |

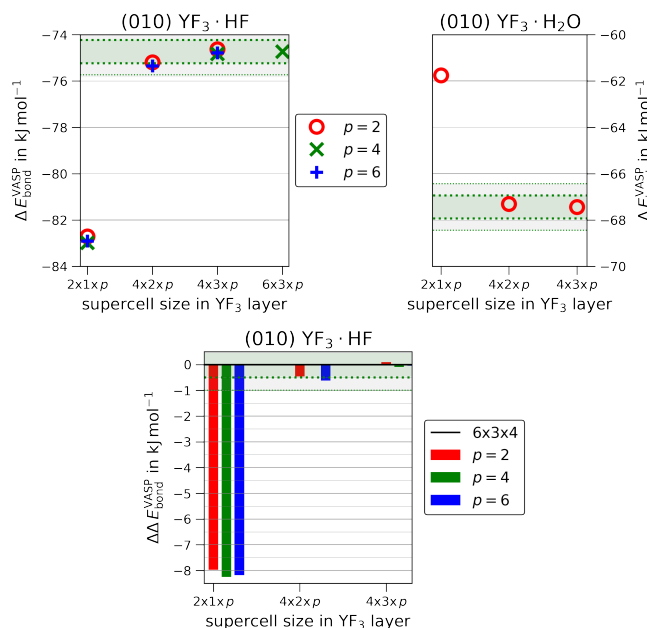


Figure S1. Supercell size convergence of ΔE_{bond} for the (010) YF₃ surface with a single adsorbate of HF (top left) or H₂O (top right). The x-axis gives the thickness perpendicular to the surface (p) in YF₃-layers. The difference to the biggest supercell ($\Delta E_{\text{bond}} - \Delta E_{\text{bond}}(6 \times 3 \times 4)$) is plotted for YF₃·HF (bottom). The green dotted lines and shaded areas visualize ± 1.0 and ± 0.5 kJ·mol⁻¹, respectively.

Comparing the two in-surface-plane lattice vectors, we find that the effect onto YF₃·H₂O is smaller than on YF₃·HF. Therefore, the bigger supercell tests were only done for the slower converging YF₃·HF. When increasing from the unit cell of (2×1) YF₃ layers to a (2×2) supercell of (4×2) YF₃ layers, the difference in ΔE_{bond} is as large as 7–8 kJ·mol⁻¹. A further increase to the square-like supercell of (4×3) YF₃ layers, only changes ΔE_{bond} by 0.5 kJ·mol⁻¹. The next possible supercell of (6×3) YF₃ layers alters the ΔE_{bond} by as little as 0.1 kJ·mol⁻¹. We thus consider a supercell size of $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ in UC or $(4 \times 3 \times 4)$ in YF₃-layers as converged. This corresponds to almost square-like dimensions

of $12.6430 \text{ \AA} \times 12.9900 \text{ \AA} \times 13.6118 \text{ \AA}$. The ΔE_{bond} differed by as little as $0.5 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ compared to the largest tested supercell area of $18.9645 \text{ \AA} \times 12.9900 \text{ \AA} \times 13.6118 \text{ \AA}$ by $(6 \times 3 \times 4)$ YF_3 -layers. For the other surface cuts, supercells have been chosen that keep the dimensions similar.

Upon increasing the supercell thickness, the changes in relaxed adsorption energy ΔE_{bond} are very low. 2 YF_3 -layers perpendicular to the surface give already a converged ΔE_{bond} . However, for the substoichiometric (101) surfaces, these were found to be unstable within the atomic position relaxations. Consequently, a thickness of 4 MF_3 -layers is used for all supercells.

Table S2. Converged supercell sizes of all surface cuts with their corresponding surface area (A_{surf}), the total number of formula units ($N_{\text{f.u.}}$) and atoms within the supercell (N_{atoms}):

| (hkl) | in UC | in layers | A_{surf} in \AA^2 | $N_{\text{f.u.}}$ | N_{atoms} |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| (010) | $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ | $(4 \times 3 \times 4)$ | (12.6430×12.9900) | 48 | 192 |
| (100) | $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ | $(4 \times 3 \times 4)$ | (13.6117×12.9900) | 48 | 192 |
| (101) | $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ | $(4 \times 4 \times 4)$ | (13.6117×15.3245) | 64–8F | 248 |
| (011) | $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ | $(4 \times 4 \times 4)$ | (12.6430×16.1330) | 64 | 256 |

2. AIMD

An overview of all AIMD runtimes and temperatures is given in Table S3. Within the pure HF monolayers, the issue of infinite HF-chains forming by the periodic boundary conditions was frequently encountered due to the relatively small lattice vectors within the surface plane. These Ads-Ads interactions gave a more favorable energy than the interaction towards the surface. Accordingly, it was not helpful to judge adsorption events by the energy time series of the trajectory.

Table S3. Overview of AIMD simulation at different temperatures for pure monolayers of $\text{YF}_3 \cdot (\text{Ads})_4$ and 1:1 mixed monolayers of $\text{YF}_3 \cdot (\text{Ads}_1)_4 \cdot (\text{Ads}_2)_4$ with summed up simulation times over all respective runs:

| (hkl) | Ads | setup | T in K | runtime in ps |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| (010) | HF | a | 50 | 1 |
| | HF | a | 100 | 2.5 |
| | HF | a | 200 | 25 |
| | H_2O | a | 50 | 1 |
| | H_2O | a | 100 | 2.5 |
| | H_2O | a | 200 | 25 |
| | HF: H_2O 1:1 | c | 200 | 20 |
| | HCl: H_2O 1:1 | c | 200 | 8 |
| (011) | HF | b | 50 | 1 |
| | HF | b | 100 | 2.5 |
| | HF | b | 200 | 25 |
| | HF | b | 300 | 1 |
| | H_2O | b | 50 | 1 |
| | H_2O | b | 100 | 2.5 |
| | H_2O | b | 200 | 25 |
| | H_2O | b | 300 | 1 |
| (101) | HF | b | 50 | 1 |
| | HF | b | 100 | 2.5 |
| | HF | b | 200 | 25 |
| | HF | b | 300 | 1 |
| | H_2O | b | 50 | 1 |
| | H_2O | b | 100 | 2.5 |
| | H_2O | b | 200 | 25 |

3. Structural Scope

This section visualizes all found 44 single adsorption conformations grouped from 60 relaxed structures for YF_3 and 58 for HoF_3 done in the isolated setup. All final electronic structure data used to calculate ΔE_{int} and ΔE_{bond} are available within the NOMAD repository (ID: xoipefEvRGOWfNVSx_R1MA).

Table S4. Structural Scope of $\text{MF}_3 \cdot (\text{Ads})$ giving the total number of different final conformers with the total number of all respective starting structures in parenthesis:

| (hkl) | n Ads | YF_3 | HoF_3 |
|---------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| (010) | 1 HF | 5 (10) | 5 (8) |
| | 1 HCl | 3 (6) | 3 (6) |
| | 1 H_2O | 3 (7) | 3 (7) |
| (100) | 1 HF | 4 (4) | 4 (4) |
| | 1 HCl | 5 (5) | 5 (5) |
| | 1 H_2O | 3 (4) | 3 (3) |
| (011) | 1 HF | 3 (4) | 3 (4) |
| | 1 HCl | 3 (4) | 3 (4) |
| | 1 H_2O | 2 (3) | 2 (3) |
| (101) | 1 HF | 5 (5) | 5 (5) |
| | 1 HCl | 4 (4) | 4 (5) |
| | 1 H_2O | 4 (4) | 4 (4) |

3.1. (010)

3.1.1. HF

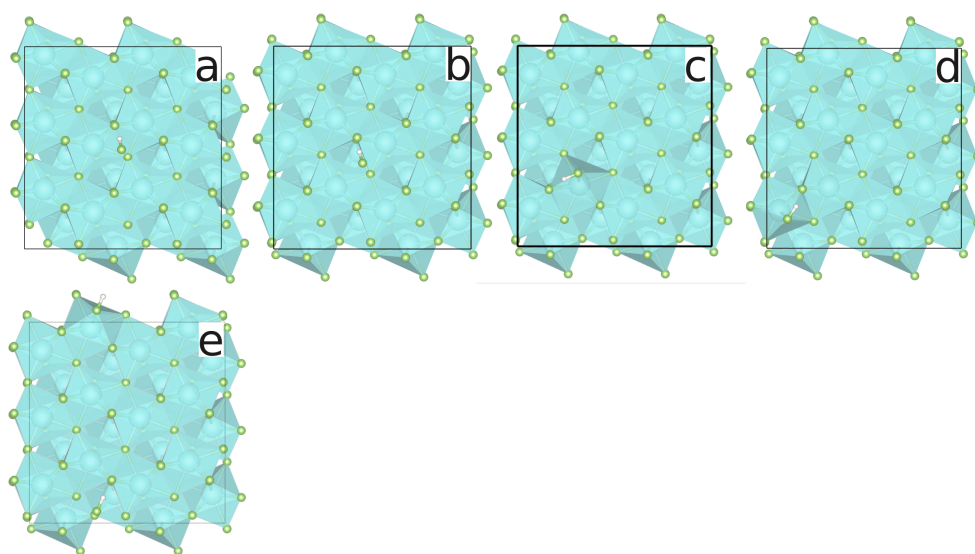


Figure S2. Relaxed adsorption structures of (010)·1HF in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ bulk unit cells. Two YF_3 structures were done for structural isomer c and five for structural isomer e. Three HoF_3 structures were done for structural isomer c and two for structural isomer e.

3.1.2. HCl

86

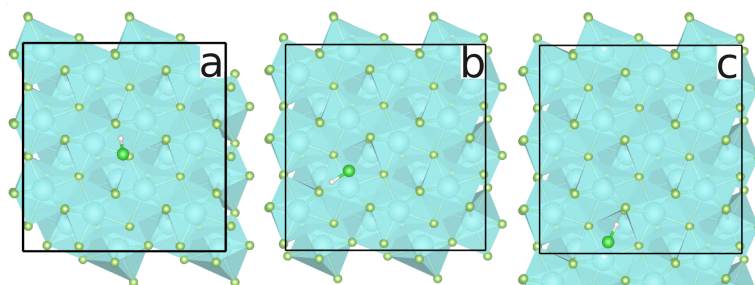


Figure S3. Relaxed adsorption structures of (010)-1HCl in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ bulk unit cells. Three structures were done for structural isomer **b** and two for structural isomer **c**.

3.1.3. H₂O

87

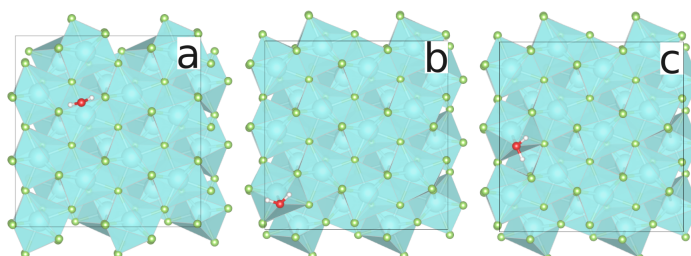


Figure S4. Relaxed adsorption structures of (010)-1H₂O in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ bulk unit cells. Three structures were done for structural isomer **b** and **c**.

3.2. (100)

88

3.2.1. HF

89

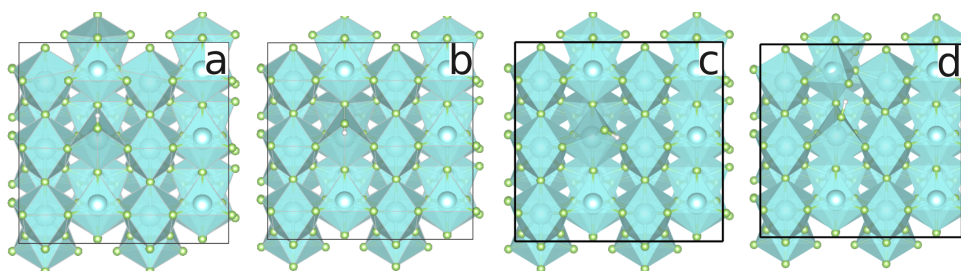


Figure S5. Relaxed adsorption structures of (100)-1HF in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ bulk unit cells.

3.2.2. HCl

90

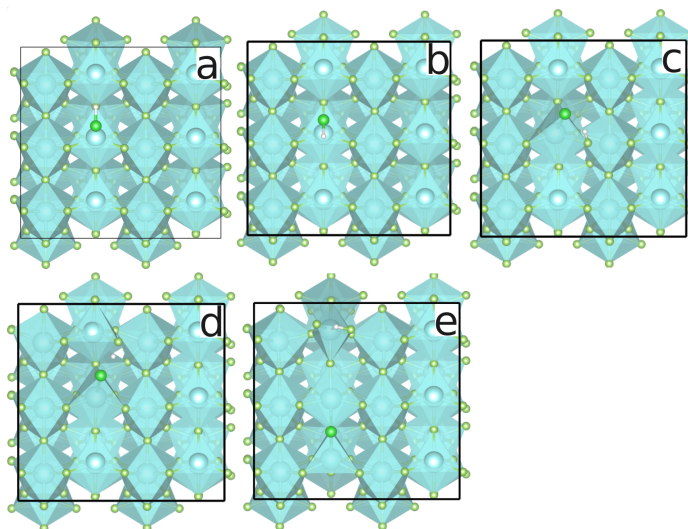


Figure S6. Relaxed adsorption structures of (100)-1HCl in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ bulk unit cells.

3.2.3. H₂O

91

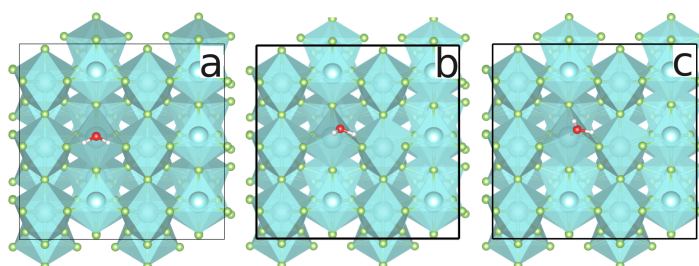


Figure S7. Relaxed adsorption structures of (100)-1H₂O in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$ bulk unit cells. Two YF₃ structures were done for structural isomer a.

3.3. (011)

92

3.3.1. HF

93

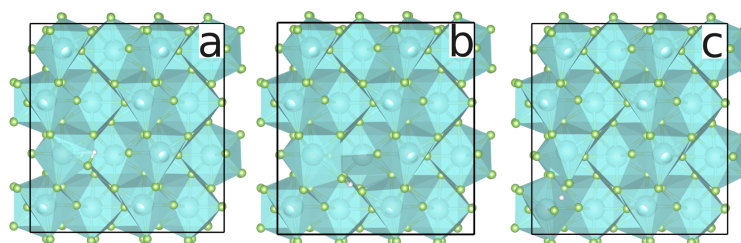


Figure S8. Relaxed adsorption structures of (011)-1HF in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ bulk unit cells. Two structures were done for structural isomer c.

3.3.2. HCl

94

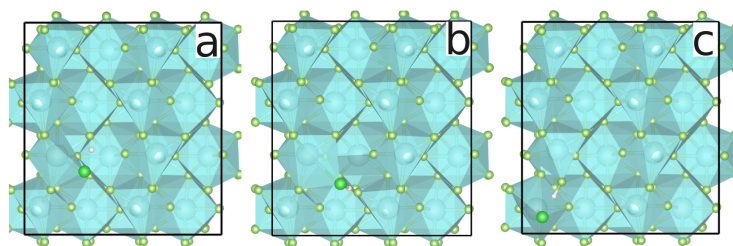


Figure S9. Relaxed adsorption structures of (011)·1HCl in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ bulk unit cells. Two structures were done for structural isomer c.

3.3.3. H₂O

95

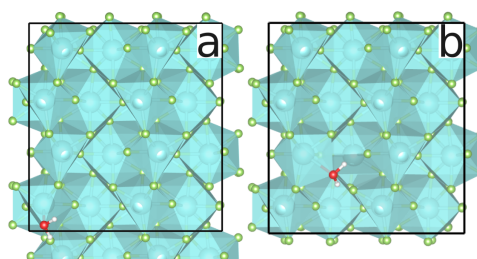


Figure S10. Relaxed adsorption structures of (011)·1H₂O in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ bulk unit cells. Two structures were done for structural isomer b.

3.4. (101)

96

3.4.1. HF

97

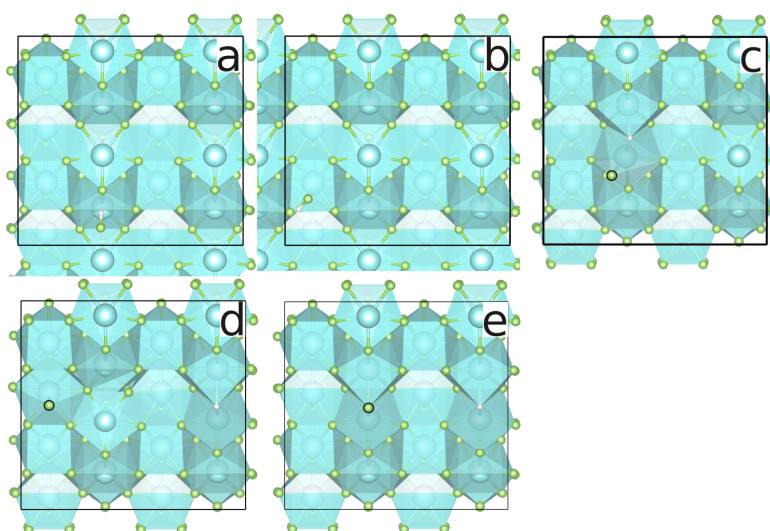


Figure S11. Relaxed adsorption structures of (101)·1HF in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ bulk unit cells. The hydride forming configurations c, d and e are called $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{3\text{\AA}}\text{F}$, $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{3.5\text{\AA}}\text{F}$ and $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{F}$ within the main paper according to the H–F distance.

3.4.2. HCl

98

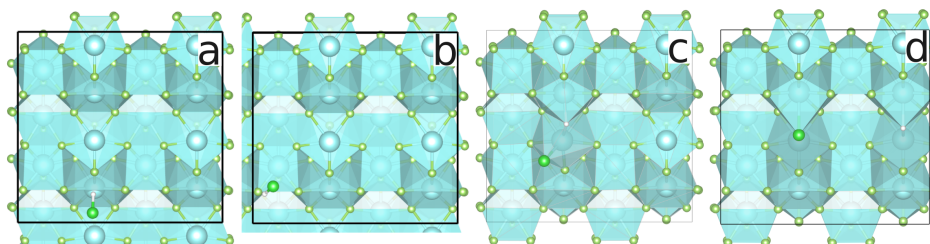


Figure S12. Relaxed adsorption structures of $(101) \cdot 1\text{HCl}$ in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ bulk unit cells. The hydride forming configurations **c** and **d** are called $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{3\text{\AA}}\text{Cl}$ and $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{Cl}$ within the main paper according to the H–Cl distance. For configuration **d**, two structures were done for $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{Cl}$.

3.4.3. H₂O

99

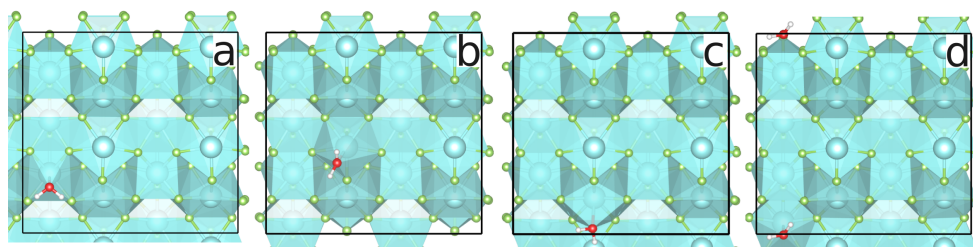


Figure S13. Relaxed adsorption structures of $(101) \cdot 1\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in order of increasing $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$ viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$ bulk unit cells.

4. Effect of Relaxation

100

Figures S14–S16 illustrate how the difference in adsorption energy between $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$ and $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$ is affected by the relaxation energy of the reactants. $\Delta\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$ is defined analogously to $\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$ (see Equation 5 of the main paper). The central, black diagonal plots $\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$ against itself. A positive $\Delta\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$ (or $\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$) means that the $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$ is stronger bound than the respective $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$. Therefore, values within the lower right triangle correspond to an increased difference between the two MF_3 upon reactant relaxation.

101

102

103

104

105

106

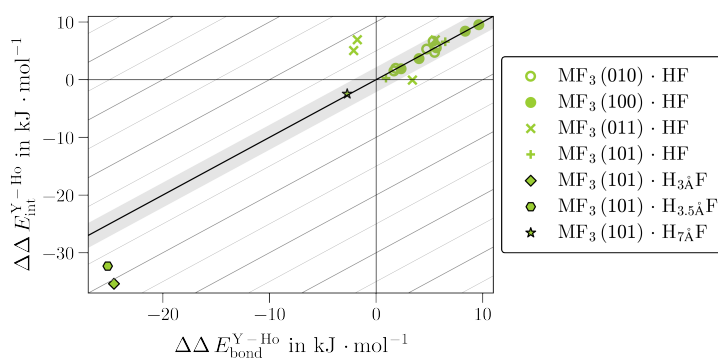


Figure S14. Difference of adsorption energies of $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{HF}$ and $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{HF}$ with $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$ or without $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$ relaxed reactants. An area of $\pm 2 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ is shaded.

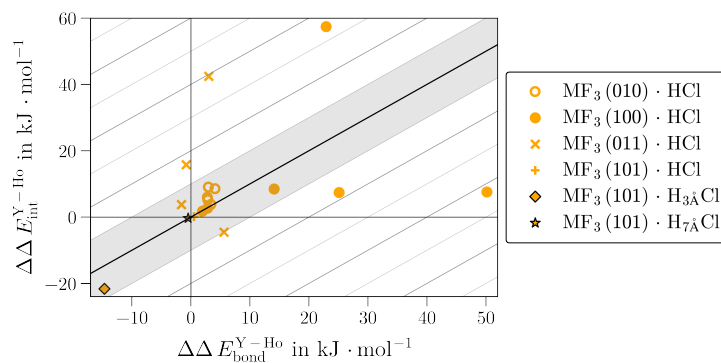


Figure S15. Difference of adsorption energies of $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{HCl}$ and $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{HCl}$ with $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$ or without $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$ relaxed reactants. An area of $\pm 10 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ is shaded.

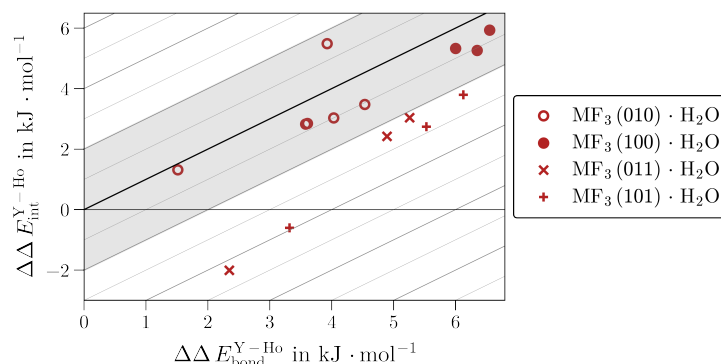


Figure S16. Difference of adsorption energies of $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ with $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$ or without $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$ relaxed reactants. An area of $\pm 2 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ is shaded.

5. Averages over Structural Properties

The coordination of an adsorbate towards the surface has been considered a H-bond, if either the angle or distance satisfies at least the criteria of moderate H-bonds with $A_{\text{X-H} \cdots \text{F}_{\text{surf}}} \geq 130^\circ$ or $R_{\text{H} \cdots \text{F}_{\text{surf}}} \leq 220 \text{ pm}$ [3].

For the structural properties (a) of bond distances and H-bond angle, its arithmetic mean and linearly weighted mean by ΔE_{bond} (\bar{a}_E) is given in Table S5 for each surface and over all surfaces. Note that the intra-adsorbate bond length ($R_{\text{O-H}}$) for $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ is given as the mean over both O–H bonds.

$$\bar{a}_E = \frac{\sum_i (-\Delta E_{\text{int},i} a_i)}{\sum_i (-\Delta E_{\text{bond},i})} \quad (1)$$

Table S5. Calculated means of intra-adsorbate bond length (R_{X-H}), H-bond angles ($A_{X-H\cdots F_{\text{surf}}}$) and distances ($R_{H\cdots F_{\text{surf}}}$), direct O/F/Cl to metal coordinations ($R_{X-Y/\text{Ho}_{\text{surf}}}$) without weight (\bar{a}) or weighted by ΔE_{bond} as given in Equation 1 (\bar{a}_E) for all non-hydride forming single adsorptions and without the 7 Å dissociated (100)·HCl structural isomer e; the \bar{a}_E over all (*hkl*) are plotted in Figure 6 within the main paper:

| | <i>(hkl)</i> | MF_3 | $\bar{R}_{X-H} / \text{pm}$ | | $\bar{A}_{X-H\cdots F_{\text{surf}}} / ^\circ$ | | $\bar{R}_{H\cdots F_{\text{surf}}} / \text{pm}$ | | $\bar{R}_{X-Y/\text{Ho}_{\text{surf}}} / \text{pm}$ | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| | | | \bar{a} | \bar{a}_E | \bar{a} | \bar{a}_E | \bar{a} | \bar{a}_E | \bar{a} | \bar{a}_E |
| HF | (010) | Y | 98 | 99 | 159 | 161 | 149 | 146 | 252 | 246 |
| | | Ho | 98 | 98 | 156 | 157 | 152 | 149 | 244 | 244 |
| | (100) | Y | 100 | 103 | 159 | 162 | 130 | 130 | 241 | 237 |
| | | Ho | 100 | 103 | 160 | 162 | 128 | 128 | 243 | 239 |
| | (011) | Y | 107 | 108 | 169 | 170 | 128 | 126 | 232 | 230 |
| | | Ho | 107 | 108 | 169 | 170 | 128 | 126 | 235 | 234 |
| | (101) | Y | 95 | 96 | 151 | 148 | 165 | 165 | 260 | 260 |
| | | Ho | 96 | 96 | 154 | 149 | 166 | 165 | 257 | 257 |
| | all | Y | 100 | 102 | 160 | 164 | 144 | 138 | 246 | 239 |
| | | Ho | 100 | 103 | 160 | 162 | 144 | 137 | 242 | 239 |
| HCl | (010) | Y | 131 | 131 | 149 | 151 | 178 | 175 | 321 | 318 |
| | | Ho | 132 | 133 | 153 | 155 | 166 | 164 | 310 | 308 |
| | (100) | Y | 149 | 163 | 155 | 156 | 107 | 107 | 289 | 277 |
| | | Ho | 148 | 161 | 155 | 156 | 106 | 106 | 293 | 286 |
| | (011) | Y | 157 | 157 | 172 | 173 | 116 | 115 | 278 | 277 |
| | | Ho | 158 | 158 | 172 | 173 | 114 | 113 | 279 | 278 |
| | (101) | Y | 130 | 130 | 156 | 154 | 188 | 189 | — | — |
| | | Ho | 130 | 130 | 156 | 153 | 193 | 194 | — | — |
| | all | Y | 143 | 151 | 158 | 162 | 151 | 133 | 297 | 286 |
| | | Ho | 143 | 152 | 159 | 162 | 147 | 129 | 295 | 288 |
| H ₂ O | (010) | Y | 98 | 98 | 155 | 156 | 182 | 173 | 262 | 248 |
| | | Ho | 98 | 98 | 143 | 142 | 187 | 181 | 245 | 245 |
| | (100) | Y | 97 | 97 | 113 | 113 | 202 | 202 | 241 | 241 |
| | | Ho | 97 | 97 | 114 | 114 | 203 | 203 | 244 | 244 |
| | (011) | Y | 98 | 98 | 141 | 142 | 195 | 195 | 241 | 241 |
| | | Ho | 98 | 98 | 134 | 135 | 203 | 202 | 245 | 245 |
| | (101) | Y | 99 | 99 | 132 | 137 | 226 | 223 | 241 | 240 |
| | | Ho | 98 | 99 | 143 | 144 | 233 | 226 | 244 | 243 |
| | all | Y | 98 | 98 | 138 | 138 | 198 | 197 | 249 | 243 |
| | | Ho | 98 | 98 | 137 | 136 | 199 | 199 | 244 | 244 |

The non-/weighted averages of \bar{R}_{X-H} hardly differ (≤ 2 pm) between Y and Ho. Which MF_3 ·Ads possesses the smaller \bar{R}_{X-H} is surface dependent. Only those H-bonds have been included that are either by distance (≤ 220 pm) or by angle ($\geq 130^\circ$) at least within the moderate regime. By that criteria (101)·H₂O isomer a (see Figure S13 a) is just (hardly) included within YF₃ but (hardly) not in HoF₃.

The H-bond angles also hardly differ between the two metals for MF_3 ·HF, as well as MF_3 ·HCl with a maximum difference of 4° . Interestingly for adsorptions of H₂O, the weighted averages for (010) and (011)·H₂O are 14° and 7° wider for YF₃ than for HoF₃, while no such difference is observed for (100) and even the opposite for non-hydride forming (101)·H₂O. The $\text{F-H}\cdots\text{F}_{\text{surf}}$ distance is equivalent for YF₃ and HoF₃. For (010), however, the respective $\text{Cl-H}\cdots\text{F}_{\text{surf}}$ distance is significantly shorter in HoF₃. This is supported by the little bit wider H-bonds angles.

6. H-Bond Dissociated Structures

Adsorbates have been classified as H-bond dissociated if the distance within the adsorbate molecule is at least by 30 pm larger than the H-bond distance to a surface. This cutoff is illustrated in Figure S17 as dotted line.

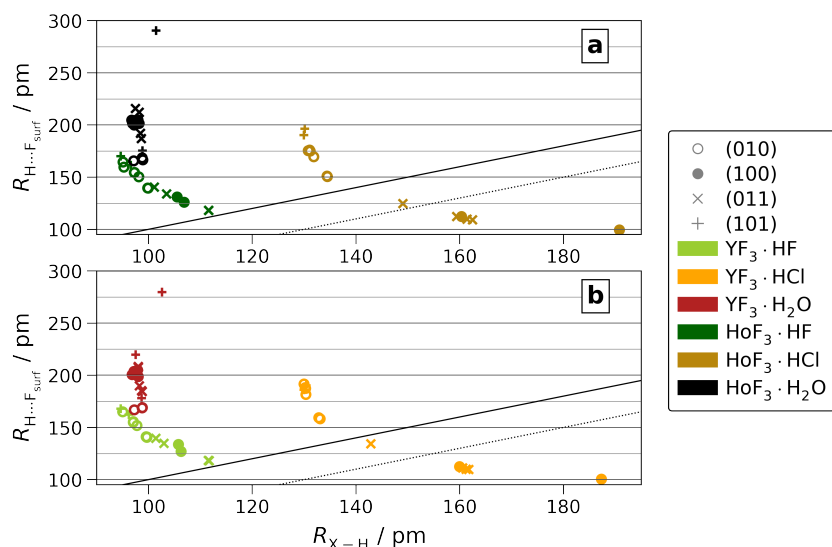


Figure S17. $R_{H...F_{surf}}$ vs. R_{X-H} for HoF_3 ·Ads (a) and YF_3 ·Ads (b) for all non-hydride forming adsorptions but the 7 Å wide H-bond dissociated (100)·HCl. $R_{H...F_{surf}} = R_{X-H} - \Delta R_x$ pm is highlight for $\Delta R_x = 0$ (solid line) and $\Delta R_x = 30$ (dotted line).

7. Hydride Forming Dissociated Structures

Figure S18 gives a version of Figure 6 b and c of the main paper including the hydride forming adsorptions of (101)·HF/HCl. Their negatively charged hydrogen forms no H-bond to F_{surf} but directly coordinates to M_{surf} . Thus, the distances of hydrogen towards the surface given in Figure S18 a are $R_{H...M_{surf}}$ for the hydride forming adsorptions, while for any other, these are $R_{H...F_{surf}}$, as in the main paper.

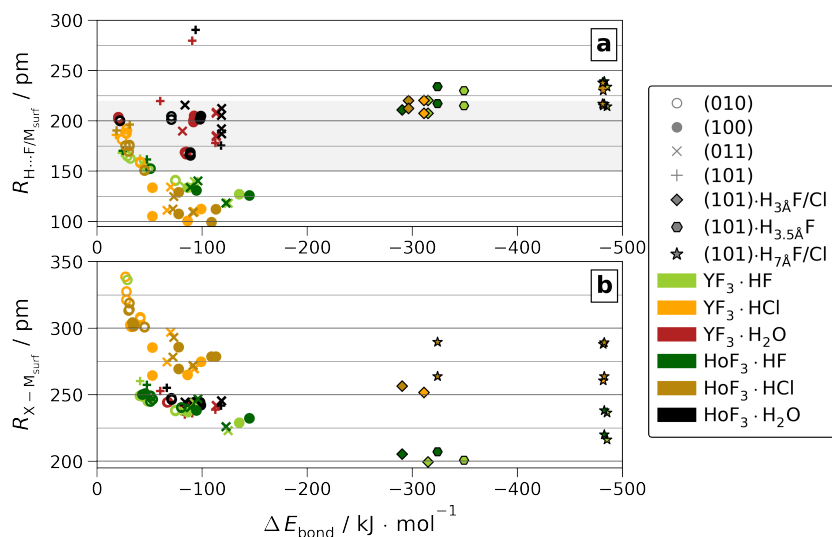


Figure S18. Coordination distances towards the surface by the adsorbate for H ($R_{H...F/M_{surf}}$, a) and X = O/F/Cl ($R_{X-M_{surf}}$, b) vs. ΔE_{bond} for all single adsorptions.

Figure S19 gives the changes in partial Bader charges of ≥ 0.05 e upon adsorption for all metal centers. The partial charges of all F_{surf} remain unchanged compared to the bare surface. Upon hydride formation, the surface metal partial charges are increased by 0.4–0.5 e for each of the two $M_{surf}(II)$ (next to) coordination sites for (101)· $H_{7\text{\AA}}F/Cl$ (and (101)· $H_{3.5\text{\AA}}F$). In (101)· $H_{3\text{\AA}}F/Cl$, with the halide and hydride coordinating to the same $M_{surf}(II)$, again increased by 0.5 e, the remaining charge is split over two further $M_{surf}(II)$.

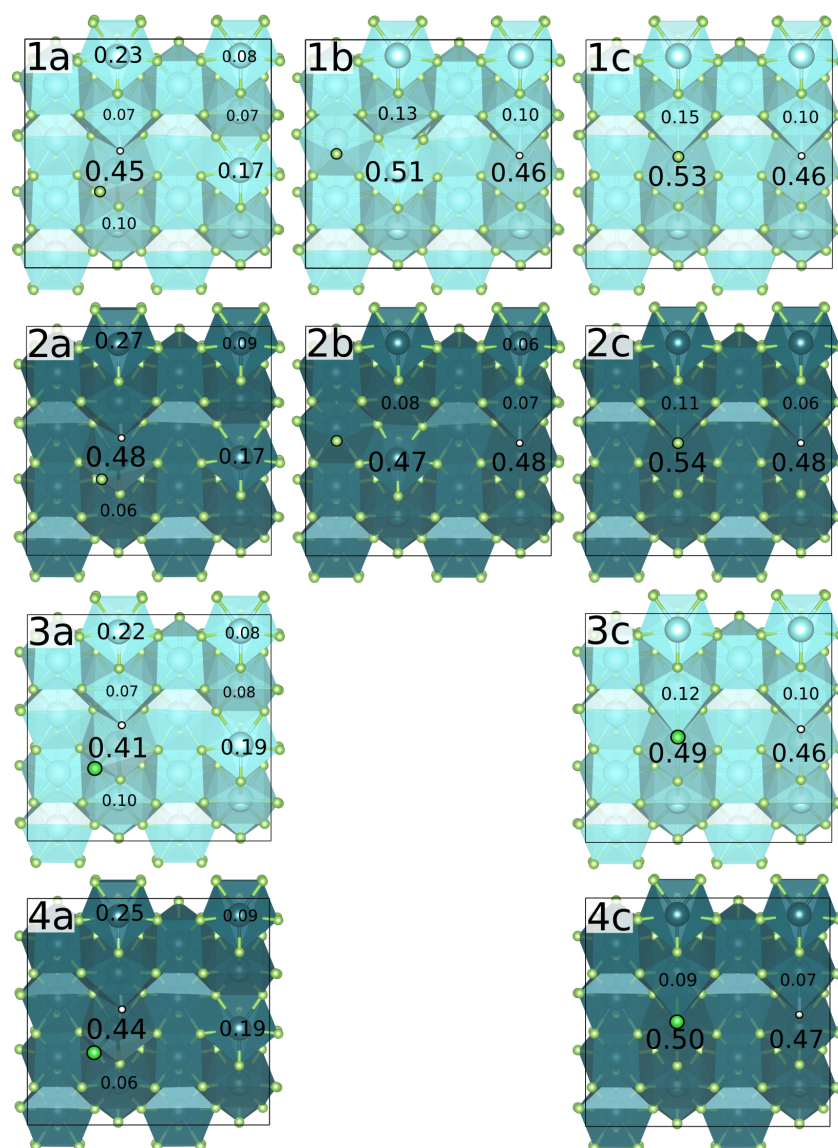


Figure S19. Changes in partial Bader charges (≥ 0.05 e) of M_{surf} upon adsorbate dissociation for (101)· $H_{3\text{\AA}}F/Cl$ (a), (101)· $H_{3.5\text{\AA}}F$ (b) and (101)· $H_{7\text{\AA}}F/Cl$ (c) for $YF_3 \cdot HF$ (1a–1c), $HoF_3 \cdot HF$ (2a–2c), $YF_3 \cdot HCl$ (3a–3c) and $HoF_3 \cdot HCl$ (4a–4c).

8. Partial Charges

The partial charges of the adsorbed structure, as well as their differences compared to the free molecule are given in Figure S20–S23. See the main paper Figure 7 for the final partial charges of HF and HCl adsorptions.

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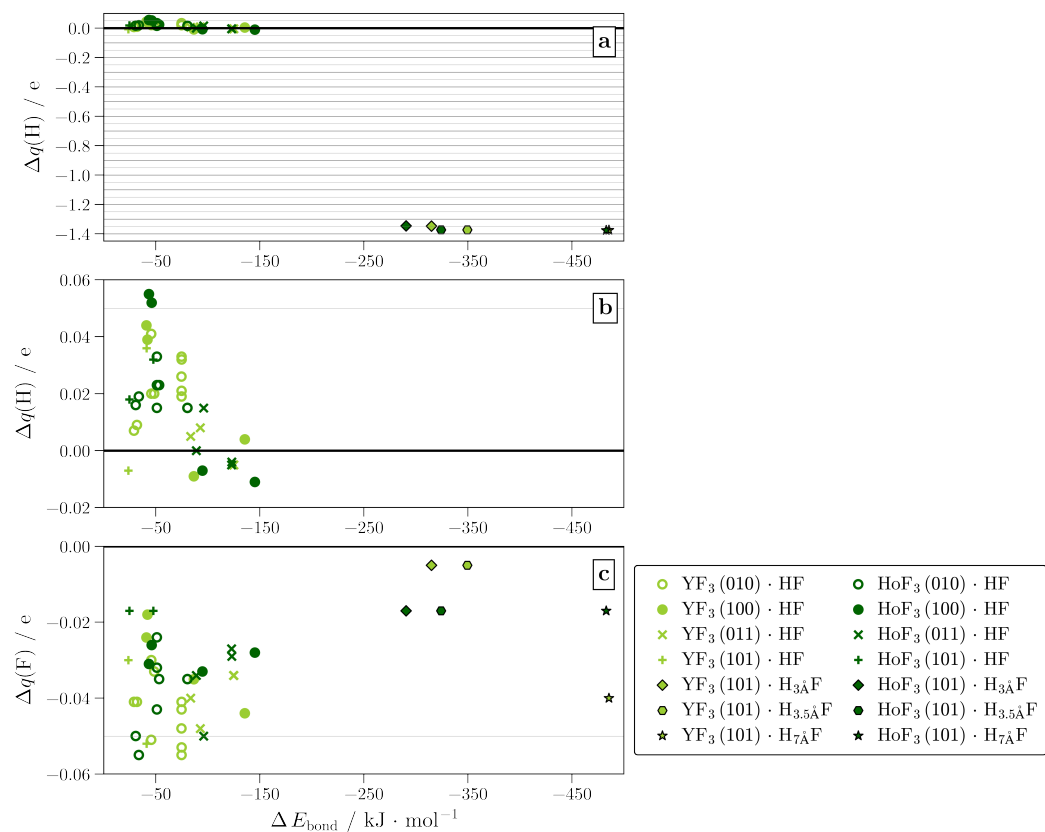


Figure S20. Change of partial Bader charges of HF adsorbed onto YF₃ or HoF₃ ($\Delta q(\text{H})$ **a** with zoom **b** and $\Delta q(\text{F})$ **c**) vs. molecular HF.

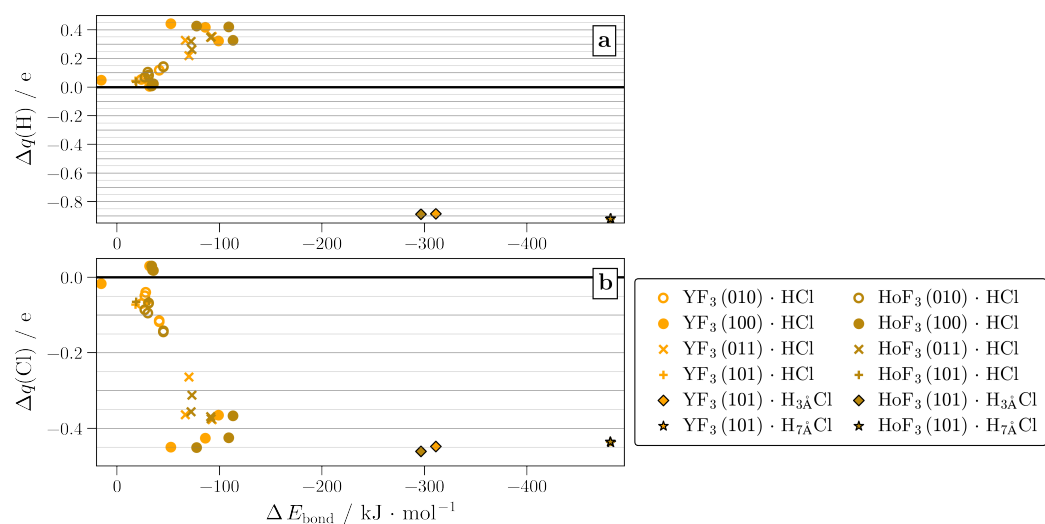


Figure S21. Change of partial Bader charges of HCl adsorbed onto YF₃ or HoF₃ ($\Delta q(\text{H})$ **a** and $\Delta q(\text{Cl})$ **b**) vs. molecular HCl.

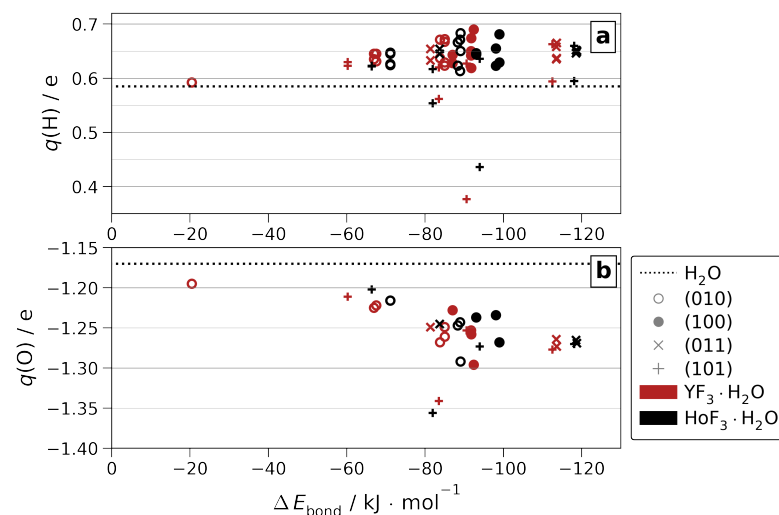


Figure S22. Partial Bader charges of molecular H_2O (dotted line) and adsorbed onto YF_3 or HoF_3 ($q(\text{H})$ a and $q(\text{O})$ b).

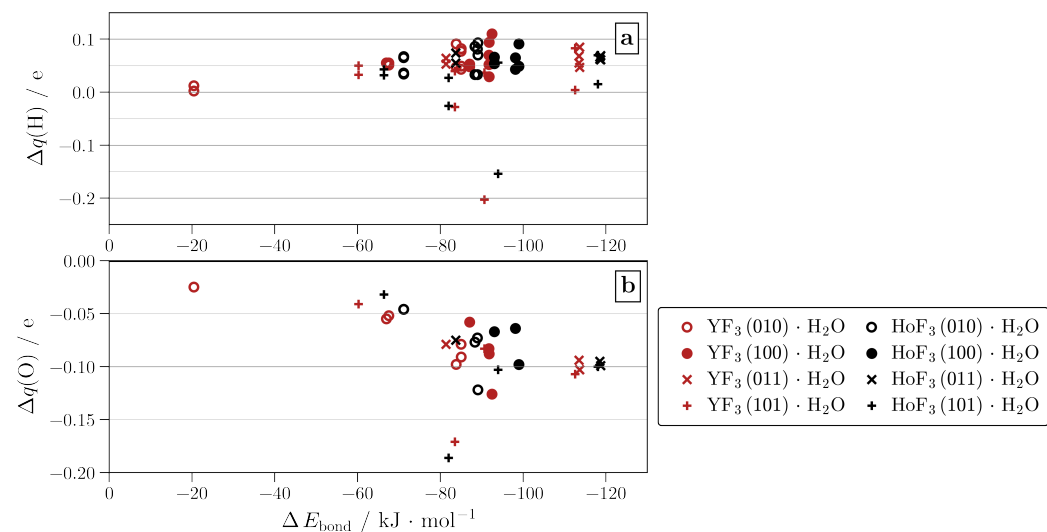


Figure S23. Change of partial Bader charges of H_2O adsorbed onto YF_3 or HoF_3 ($\Delta q(\text{H})$ a and $\Delta q(\text{O})$ b) vs. molecular H_2O .

9. Y vs. Ho Surface Dependence of Adsorption Energy

Figure S24 gives the difference in ΔE_{bond} between YF_3 and HoF_3 with the surface abundance ratios used to calculate the surface-weighted $\Delta \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$ of main paper Figure 8.

$$\Delta \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}} = \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}} - \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}} \quad (2)$$

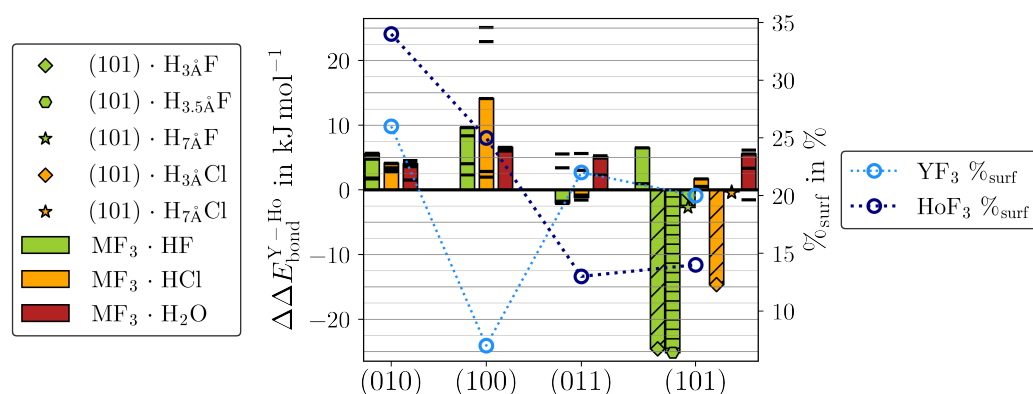


Figure S24. The difference in ΔE_{bond} between YF_3 and HoF_3 ($\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$) (see Equation 2) is given for all single adsorptions (black lines). The bar plots highlight the respective strongest adsorbed structures. The hydride forming adsorptions of $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{3\text{\AA}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$ (upward stripes), $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{3.5\text{\AA}}\text{F}$ (horizontal stripes) or $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$ (downward stripes) are given separately. The surface abundance ratios ($\%_{\text{surf}}$) for the ideal crystals are taken from [4].

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