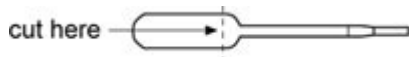


Testing for unsaturation using potassium manganate(VII)

In this experiment a solution of potassium manganate(VII) in propanone is used to detect whether an organic compound is unsaturated.

Instructions

1. Cut the end off a plastic pipette as shown below and place the cup in a glass beaker or test tube.



2. Carefully add a few crystals of potassium manganate(VII) to the cup.
3. Add propanone to the cup until it is about half-full. You will notice that the potassium manganate(VII) dissolves to give a purple solution.

Is it surprising that potassium manganate(VII) dissolves in an organic solvent?

4. Cut the ends off three pipettes to make small reaction vessels as shown below and place them in the lid of a plastic petri dish.



5. Using a plastic pipette, add four drops of the potassium manganate(VII) in propanone solution to each of the reaction vessels.
6. Put three drops of each of the organic liquids under test in the reaction vessel and observe any changes over the next few minutes.
7. Mop up the liquid with tissue paper when you have finished.

Question

1. Which types of organic liquids react with potassium manganate(VII)?

Health & Safety

Avoid sources of ignition. Students must wear eye protection.

Propanone is highly flammable.

Potassium manganate(VII) is an OXIDISER and IRRITANT. Avoid direct contact and store in the dark, stains glass, plastic, clothing and skin.

Cyclohexane is highly flammable, a skin/respiratory irritant and very toxic to aquatic life

Cyclohexene is a highly flammable liquid and vapour and harmful if ingested or in contact with the skin and is very toxic to aquatic life.

Limonene is flammable as liquid and vapour. Toxic to aquatic life and irritating and sensitising to skin.

Credits

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Health & safety checked May 2018

Page last updated August 2018



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