



SULFIDE DETECTION TRIALS

This is a diagnostic test for hydrogen sulfide and/or mercaptans. The test is subjective and only assesses the wine's ability to be treated. If the wine shows potential for treatment, this test should be followed by trials to determine the treatment level for removal of the sulfides and/or mercaptans found. (see Copper Addition Trials)

Materials:

1% Copper Sulfate (CuSO_4) Solution
Two wine glasses
Two watch glasses
50mL graduated cylinder
1mL eppendorf pipet (or 1mL volumetric pipet)
wax pencil or labels for identification

Method:

1. Label the base of each wine glass, one with Control and one with +Cu.
2. Measure 45mL of wine into each wine glass.
3. Pipet 1mL of 1% Copper Sulfate solution into the wine glass labeled +Cu.
4. Cover both glasses with a watch glass and swirl.
5. Let sit for a few minutes before examining.
6. Record results on work order.

Note: If the glass with Copper in it still has sulfide-related smells it could mean 1) the odors are disulfides which do not react with Copper, 2) the odor is dimethyl sulfide which does not react with Copper, 3) there is insufficient Copper to overcome the high amounts of sulfides, or 4) any combination of the above.