

POTASSIUM

TETRAPHENYLBORON METHOD • CODE 3639-SC

QUANTITY	CONTENTS	CODE
30 mL	*Sodium Hydroxide, 1.0N	*4004WT-G
5 g	*Tetraphenylboron Powder	*6364-C
1	Spoon, 0.05 g, plastic	0696

*WARNING: Reagents marked with an * are considered hazardous substances. To view or print a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for these reagents see MSDS CD or our web site. To obtain a printed copy, contact us by e-mail, phone or fax.

Potassium, as the seventh most common element on the Earth, may be found in minor quantities in most water supplies. It seldom exceeds 10 ppm in drinking water and usually is less than 2 ppm. In some brine or runoff in agricultural areas the potassium concentration may reach 100 ppm.

APPLICATION: Drinking, surface, and saline water.

RANGE: 0.0–10.0 ppm Potassium

METHOD: Potassium reacts with sodium tetraphenylborate to form a colloidal white precipitate in quantities proportional to the potassium concentration.

SAMPLE HANDLING & PRESERVATION: Store samples in polyethylene bottles, not in soft glass where leaching of potassium from the glass may occur. Samples may be acidified to pH 2 with nitric acid, but should be neutralized before analyzing.

INTERFERENCE: Calcium and magnesium interfere at very high concentrations. Check for stray light interference (see p. 17).

PROCEDURE

1. Press and hold **ON** button until colorimeter turns on.
2. Press **ENTER** to start.
3. Press **ENTER** to select TESTING MENU.
4. Select ALL TESTS (or another sequence containing 81 Potassium) from TESTING MENU.
5. Scroll to and select 81 Potassium from menu.
6. Rinse a clean tube (0290) with sample water. Fill to the 10 mL line with sample.
7. Insert tube into chamber, close lid and select SCAN BLANK.
8. Remove tube from colorimeter. Add 4 drops of *Sodium Hydroxide, 1.0N (4004WT). Cap and mix.
9. Use the 0.05 g spoon (0696) to add one measure of *Tetraphenylboron Powder (6364). Cap and shake vigorously until all of the powder has dissolved. Wait 5 minutes.
10. At end of 5 minute waiting period, mix tube again to suspend any settled precipitate. Insert tube into chamber, close lid and select SCAN SAMPLE. Record result.
11. Press **OFF** button to turn colorimeter off or press **EXIT** button to exit to a previous menu or make another menu selection.

NOTES: For best possible results, a reagent blank should be determined to account for any contribution to the test result by the reagent system. To determine the reagent blank, follow the above test procedure to scan a distilled or deionized water blank. Then follow the above procedure to perform the test on a distilled or deionized water sample. This test result is the reagent blank. Subtract the reagent blank from all subsequent test results of unknown samples. It is necessary to determine the reagent blank only when a new lot number of reagents are obtained.

For the most accurate results, the sample and reagents should be at $25\pm 4^{\circ}\text{C}$.