

Composition of a Hydrate Lab - Copper (II) Sulfate Pentahydrate

Name: _____ 80/1200 due: _____

A hydrate is an ionic compound that has a specific amount of water as part of its structure. The water is loosely bonded to the compound. Different hydrated ionic compounds will have different amounts of water that normally attach, but the number of water molecules is specific for each given hydrate. You will be using copper (II) sulfate pentahydrate.

When a hydrate is heated the water is released as steam. The remaining ionic compound is now known as an anhydrous salt. You will be heating up the copper (II) sulfate pentahydrate in this lab. The hydrate is blue in color and the anhydrous salt is white. When the water (the hydrate part) escapes as steam, you are left with just copper (II) sulfate.

Using the concept of % composition by mass, you can determine exactly what the percentage of water is in this large compound. You can then measure out some of this HYDRATE, heat it up and get the new mass of the ANHYDROUS SALT. The mass difference should match up with your calculations. Then you can do your percent error comparing your measured value with the ACTUAL or calculated value. This lab works well if you are careful.

WRITE THE FORMULA FOR THIS COMPOUND: _____

PROCEDURE:

1. Get equipment set up as shown by teacher. Measure out 3.00 grams. Start heating.
2. Determine the molar mass of this compound. Determine the % composition by mass of the water in this compound - (This will be Lab Question #1)
3. Warm the compound until it turns white (about 8 minutes). Cool your crucible, then re-mass the crucible with the salt. Record your data. Over heating will cause a chemical reaction - not just water evaporation, which will give you problems.
4. Re-heat for one minute. Cool and re-mass. If the mass has remained constant (within 0.01 grams) you are done. If not, you must re-heat again and re-mass again.
5. Allow crucible to cool for at least five minutes. Then, using an eyedropper, add three drops of water to the crucible. Watch what happens. (Q#5 in lab questions)

Two very important safety items: Hot crucibles do not look hot but they can be skin burning hot! Hot crucibles can melt scale pans too. They cost \$18 each. Please say out loud to your lab partner: "I promise to cool my crucible before massing on the scales, AND, before adding water in step 8". Sit crucibles at least 2 minutes on the black tables before placing on scales. Promise!