

## Testing for Protein Using the Biuret Test

*Note: Be very careful when performing this test. Potassium hydroxide is a strong base and will severely damage the skin. If you accidentally come in contact with this solution, flood the area with water, wash the area, and report the accident to your teacher.*

Fill a test tube one-third full of the solution to be tested. Add 10 drops of potassium hydroxide. Shake the test tube thoroughly. Add, one drop at a time, the copper sulfate solution. After each drop, shake the test tube thoroughly. This is necessary to keep the test solution from coagulating. Keep adding the copper sulfate until a color change is noted, usually 5–9 drops.

A solution containing a long-chain protein will turn a vivid purple when exposed to the biuret test. A solution containing shorter chains of proteins will turn pink. A solution having no protein will turn cloudy blue.