Testing for Starch Using Iodine

If a substance has starch in it, exposure to iodine will turn it dark green, dark purple, or black.

To test a solution for starch:

Add 3–5 drops of iodine solution to a test tube one-third full of the solution to be tested. Shake the test tube gently by hitting it against the heel of your hand.

To test a solid for starch:

Put a sample of the solid to be tested into a clean petri dish. Put 3–4 drops of iodine solution onto the solid. Observe the solid for color changes.