



## **If you are having trouble seeing color changes:**

- Ensure there is no draft or breeze in the room in which you are working that causes the flame to waver.
- Allow the flame to settle for a few minutes before beginning tests so it is hot and stable.
- If your flame is sparking or is yellow in color before flame tests begin, put out the flame. Once cool, trim your wick to create a hotter, shorter flame that burns blue.
- If a sample is still not producing a color change, use a slightly larger sample of solid on the spatula.
- Additionally, adjust where in the flame the spatula tip is held. Sometimes other places aside from the tip of the cone show better results.

## **If you are having trouble with color changes that persist after the flame test is complete:**

- If the flame remains the flame test color after performing a test, use the (cleaned) spatula tip to flick away particles that may have fallen on the wick.
- If you are getting the same colors as a previous test when inserting a new sample, the spatula may still have remnants of a previous solid present. Allow the spatula to cool, then scrape off any burned remains and wash it with soap and water. Test if it is clean by inserting the empty spatula into the flame. If it is clean, it will not produce a color change.