

Safe Working Procedure for n-butyl lithium

n-Butyl lithium is probably the most widely used of the commercially available organolithium reagents. It is supplied as a standard solution in hexane, most commonly 1.6M.

Precautions

n-Butyl lithium will decompose rapidly in air. In some cases, this may be sufficiently exothermic to cause the hexane to catch fire. n-Butyl lithium must be handled under an inert atmosphere using syringe or cannula techniques. Only good quality ("gas-tight") syringes should be used. All equipment for n-butyl lithium transfer should be inspected before use. Do not add any n-butyl lithium to tissue paper. Use ice-water or cold iso-propanol to destroy n-butyl lithium, preferably under a stream of inert gas. n-Butyl lithium must be cooled (ice) before quenching.

The following personal protective equipment (PPE) is to be used:

Safety Glasses, Labcoat, Latex gloves, Long pants, Covered shoes

n-Butyl lithium must only be handled in a well ventilated fume cupboard.

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