

## **DESICCATOR Set-up**

### Chemicals:

25 g sodium hydroxide pellets  
Bring to 200 ml volume with H<sub>2</sub>O

### Equipment:

Stir plate  
Stir bar  
Side arm flask  
Desiccator

**Check** the Drierite pellets before beginning this protocol. See step 8.

1. Add H<sub>2</sub>O to 25 g sodium hydroxide pellets into beaker.
2. Add stir bar to beaker – mix well to dissolve. Place beaker in ice to cool down solution.
3. Pour solution into side arm flask (trap).
4. Attach hoses. The “Y” shaped hose is attached to the spout on the flask. The tube from the top of the flask is attached to the desiccator.
5. Turn switch on, and then turn the valve (plug in hose with arrow) to where the arrow points toward desiccator. Check for vacuum by tugging on the lid of the desiccator.
6. Leave on for 45 minutes.
7. Reverse steps for removing the plates when finished. Close the valve. Wait for the hissing to lessen and bubbling to stop. Then turn off switch. Remove plates and place under hood under foil until thoroughly dry. Wrap the stack (in 5's) in foil.
8. Check the Drierite pellets in the bottom of the desiccator. If they are pink, then it is time to replace pellets. They should be blue.