
# Plasticisers / Phthalates analysis

## Background

Phthalates are widely used as additives (plasticisers) in the production of plastic materials, such as PVC, and act to soften the materials to increase its processability, flexibility and extensibility. They are also added to paints, varnishes and rubbers as well as to certain food packaging materials.

Phthalates are not chemically bound to the materials they are used in and can be released over time and by contact. Accordingly, they are ubiquitous in the environment and background levels are found in all foods and beverages. They are also absorbed into the body through inhalation and skin contact.

In the grape and wine industry, possible sources of phthalates in wine will include hoses, coatings and/or linings, paints, pipes and tanks.

## The analysis

Samples submitted for this test should be provided as finished packaged product. If analysis is required for bulk samples please contact the AWRI Commercial Services for appropriate procedures and packaging. Incorrect sample containers or the use of plastic tubing or other devices during collection can contaminate the samples and give incorrect results.

Levels for the following phthalates will be reported.

| Phthalate | Acronym | Limit of reporting (mg/kg) |
|---|---|---|
| dibutyl phthalate | DBP | 0.3 |
| butyl benzyl phthalate | BBP | 1 |
| bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate | DEHP | 1 |
| di-n-octyl phthalate | DnOP | 1 |
| di-iso-nonyl phthalate | DINP | 1 |
| di-iso-decyl phthalate | DIDP | 1 |
| dimethyl phthalate | DMP | 1 |
| diethyl phthalate | DEP | 1 |

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## Costs

The cost to submit wines for this analysis is outlined below.

| Volume required | Price per sample ex GST | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1-7 samples | 8+ samples |
| 100 mL | $385 | $335 |

Turnaround time – 10 – 15 business days from receipt of sample

## Further information

For more information regarding analysis, please contact Randell Taylor (commercialservices@awri.com.au, Ph: [08] 8313 6618) or for assistance with sample submission please contact the AWRI Commercial Services Customer Service group (commercialservices@awri.com.au, Ph: [08] 8313 6600).

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