

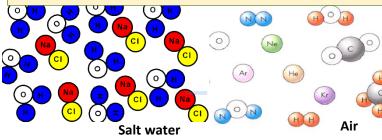
# 4. Separating mixtures

# C1 Atomic Structure

A mixture consists of **two or more** elements or compounds **not** chemically combined together.

There are no chemical bonds holding the substances together so it means that they can be easily separated using physical methods called **separation techniques.** 

Common examples of mixtures include crude oil, dyes, salt water and air.



## Filtration

Sand, salt

and water

sand

**Conical flask** 

Salt water

This method is used to separate insoluble solid from liquids.

The insoluble solid has large enough sized pieces to be come stuck in the filter paper, while the liquid e.g. water passes through the filter paper, into the flask/beaker. This technique can be used to separate sand from salt water.

Filter funnel

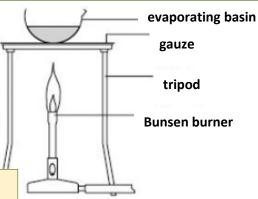
and paper

beaker \_\_\_\_

### **Evaporation and crystallisation**

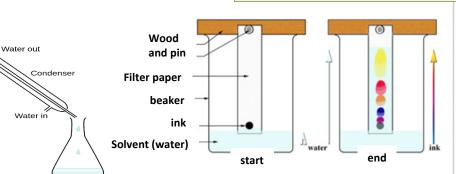
This method separates a soluble solute from its solvent by heating the resulting solution. Heat the solution and the solvent will evaporate. The solute is left behind as the water evaporates and slowly crystals are formed.

This technique can be used to separate soluble salts in solution.



#### Paper chromatography

Use to separate soluble solid compounds in a solution. A solvent is run up the filter paper and separates each dye compounds (as they move at different rates up the filter paper. The end result is a pattern of spots called a chromatogram. This technique can be used to separate different dyes in an ink.



#### Simple distillation

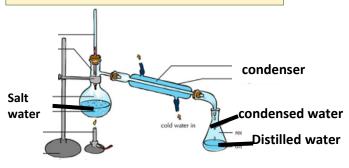
The method is used to separate out a liquid and a soluble solid from a solution.

The solution is heated and the liquid evaporates.

The soluble solid if left in the round bottom flask.

The evaporated liquid (now a gas) enters the condenser, hits the cool surface and condenses back into a liquid. It forms droplets and drips into the beaker.

This method is used to separate salt water.



#### Fractional distillation

Thermometer

Fractionating

Round-bottom

Bunsen burner

Column

This method is used to separate several liquids mixed together e.g. crude oil.

If you place the mixture in a flask and heat it up, the different liquids will evaporate at different temperatures as they have different boiling points. Liquids with higher boiling points will evaporates last and liquids with the lowest boiling point will evaporate first and will go to the top of the fractionating column. As the column cools the different gases condense at different points (low boiling points at the top and high boiling points at the bottom), thus separating them.

