Obtaining the water in an oxygen-free state is a very difficult process. Because of the high reactivity of the oxygen, it is difficult to prevent the formation of oxygen in the water. The oxygen can be removed by boiling the water, but this is not practical for large quantities of water. The oxygen can also be removed by adding a reducing agent, such as sodium sulfite, to the water. The reducing agent will react with the oxygen and form a harmless compound. The oxygen can also be removed by passing the water through a column of activated carbon. The activated carbon will adsorb the oxygen and remove it from the water.