

Alcohols

Chemistry

Primary, secondary and tertiary, and what each oxidises to.

Oxidation products by class.

Class	Oxidises to	Conditions
Primary	Aldehyde	Distil off immediately
Primary	Carboxylic acid	Reflux with excess oxidant
Secondary	Ketone	Reflux
Tertiary	No reaction	No H on the C-OH carbon

Acidified potassium dichromate turns orange to green when reduced.
Tertiary alcohols leave it orange — that is the test.