Biodiesel Production and Analysis

Virtual Chemistry Lab

Under the harsh conditions found in deep fryers, some oil molecules in Waste Vegetable Oil (WVO) naturally decompose into Free Fatty Acids (FFA's) as shown in Reaction 3 below. During production of biodiesel from WVO, FFA's will consume NaOH, decreasing the overall product yield (Reaction 4). To compensate, producers add extra NaOH. However, if too much NaOH is added, soap is produced instead of biodiesel.

Determine the amount of extra NaOH (in g) needed when producing biodiesel from 1.00 L of your WVO. This will require you to titrate a "virtual sample" of your WVO to a phenolphthalein endpoint using the Virtual Chem Lab. Be sure to report the procedure you use.