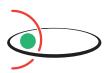
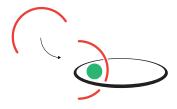


1 The molecules that will form a chain are attracted to a copper ion.



2 The copper ion gathers the molecules.



linked to the crescent-shaped molecule.

3 A third molecule is



**4** The molecules are linked by a mechanical bond. The copper ion is removed.

Illustration: ©Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences