Refining of metals Electrolytic refining is most widely used method for refining impure metals In this process, impure metal is made the anode, thin strip of pure metal is made cathode. A solution of metal salt is used as an electrolyte. $(-) \xrightarrow{e} (+)$ On passing the current through electrolyte, the pure metal from anode dissolver into the electrolyte Anode: Cu (impure) - s cu²⁺ (ag) + de-An equivalent amount of pure metal from the electrolyte is deposited on the cathode Cathode: Cu²⁺ (ap) the - Culs) (pure) The soluble impurities go into the solution, whereas insoluble impurities settle down at the bottom of the anode and are known as anode mud.