

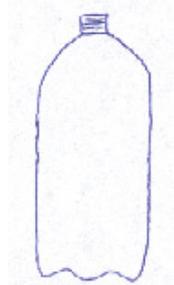
MAKE YOUR OWN RAIN GAUGE

Keeping track of how much rain has fallen is a job that many people do for the weather bureau. The amount of rain that falls varies around the state and even from suburb to suburb. You can make a simple rain gauge which can be used to measure the rainfall at your house.

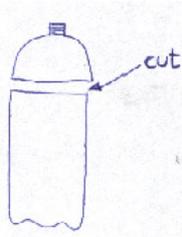


You will need

- An **empty clear plastic bottle**. It needs to have straight sides for the rain gauge to be accurate.
- A **ruler**. (Or print the ruler from this page and then cover it with clear contact on both sides to make it waterproof)
- **Scissors**
- **Elastic band**
- **Gravel or small stones**

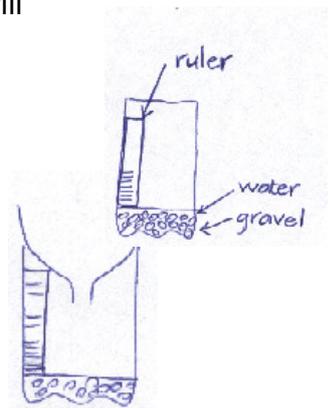


Directions



1. Cut the top end of the bottle off, from about where it starts to taper inwards. This top becomes a funnel.
2. Put the gravel in the bottom of the bottle, up to where the bottle starts its straight edge. The gravel will help to stop the bottle blowing over.
3. Pour some water in, just enough to cover the gravel.

4. Use the elastic band to hold the ruler in place. The zero mark of the ruler must be at the line where the water ends. Place the funnel top upside down in the bottom cut off section. Push it in so that it fits snugly.
5. Put your rain gauge somewhere in the garden, away from overhanging trees or fences.
6. When you want to “zero” your rain gauge once again after rain, carefully pour off the water, leaving just enough to cover the gravel to the zero level of the ruler.



[*Other Ideas:* Keep a monthly total of rain fallen in your area. You can check your measurements against statistics available from the Bureau of Meteorology website].

