

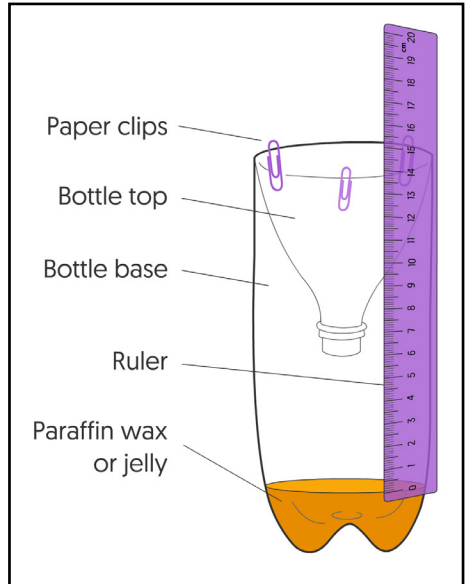
Make your own rain gauge

Equipment

- An empty, plastic 2 litre bottle
- Scissors
- Paperclips
- Ruler
- Paraffin wax or jelly (3 or 4 cubes made up as directed on the packet)

Instructions

1. Ask an adult to help cut the top of the bottle off; so about a quarter of the way down below the neck of the bottle, where the diameter is constant. Cut smoothly.
2. Take the top quarter of top the bottle that you have cut off, turn it upside down and place it back in the larger part of the bottle. It should fit snugly, but to make sure it does not fall out use a few paper clips to hold the two halves together.
3. The bottles are unusually shaped at the bottom; however, you need a completely flat bottom to be able to measure the rainfall depth accurately. To achieve this, pour in jelly mixture or paraffin wax in several stages and let it set flat in the bottom of the bottle (wax is better as jelly only lasts a few days). Depths can then be measured from the top of the wax or jelly.
4. Attach a ruler to the side of your rain gauge in order to measure the amount of water collected. Remember to line up the zero with the top of the wax/jelly, and not the bottom of the bottle.



Where should I place my rain gauge?

Place your rain gauge in an open location where it can collect rain without being affected by buildings or trees. To help it stand upright you might either dig a hole and bury your rain gauge so that the top is sticking about 5cm out of the ground or you can use a bucket of ballast (pea-shingle, sand or similar) which can be mounded up each time after taking your recording.

When to measure rainfall?

It does not matter when, as long as you visit your rain gauge at the same time each day. You can write down the amount of rain collected in your weather diary. Afterwards, empty it and put it back in the same place.

Where gets the most rain in the UK?

There is a divide between the north-west and the south-east of the UK. The wettest areas are over higher ground such as Snowdonia, the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands all receiving more than 4 metres of rainfall on average each year. The driest areas are over the East Midlands, East Anglia and South-East England with average annual rainfall values less than 600mm.



About the Royal Meteorological Society

The Royal Meteorological Society is the Learned and Professional Society for weather and climate. Our mission is to promote meteorology as a science, profession and interest. The Society is open to anyone whose profession or interests are connected with weather and climate.

About Bramwell Brown Mechanimated Clocks

Bramwell Brown's Weather Clocks are innovative reinventions of the traditional barometer, combining a nostalgia for curious mechanical objects with highly innovative British design. Bramwell Brown clocks are totally unique in the world, yet complementary to the modern home or place of work.