

Mariner Weather Glass

Weather barometers similar to these were used centuries ago to forecast weather change on the old sailing ships.

How to Fill & Tint

Colored water in the instrument makes the level easier to see. Mix ink or food coloring into water to get the desired shade, then add the mixture to the instrument body until the level is about one inch (2.5 cm) above the spout join.

Installation

Attach the brass hanger to a wall, out of direct sunlight and away from heaters, as direct heat that expands the air in the instrument will cause a false reading. A small piece of blotting paper can be placed in the hanger cup to absorb any water that might come out of the spout during stormy weather. Mount the weather glass on the hanger.

How it Works

The main factors producing weather are stability, moisture content and cooling processes. Because these are often associated with atmospheric pressure change, a barometer that tells us how the pressure is changing can give us warning of a change in weather several hours in advance. In general, though a low pressure area may bring no more than a change in temperature and wind direction, it often carries precipitation with it. This weather glass is a simple barometer. The rise and fall of the water level in the spout indicate changes in atmospheric pressure. As the pressure drops, the water in the spout rises. As the pressure rises, the water in the spout drops. By keeping a close watch on the changes, we can be better prepared for a change in the weather.

Water Action in Spout	Forecasts
Rising Slowly	An approaching low pressure area (and possibly a storm)
Rising rapidly	A local storm approaching
Bubbling out of spout	A rapidly approaching low pressure area of considerable intensity, which could be a warning of a fierce storm or passage of a tornado
Rapidly falling in spout during a storm	The storm is almost over
Holding steady in a relatively low position	Clear weather is likely