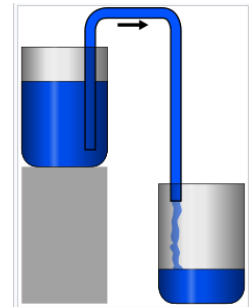


Experiment

How to make a syphon



Safety. Do you need help?

Adult supervision or assistance may be required.
The experiment can be completed outside in case of spills.

Aim.

In this experiment, you will explore how a syphon works to move water from one container to another. The syphon uses gravity to draw down the water.

Materials.

- Packet of re-useable, flexible, silicon drinking straws
- Roll of duct tape
- Sponge to soak up any spills
- Tall container or jug
- Water
- Permanent marker
- Shorter container
- Blue food colouring
- Breadboard or something to rest the tall container so that it is slightly higher
- Scissors



Instructions.

Step 1: Get your containers ready.

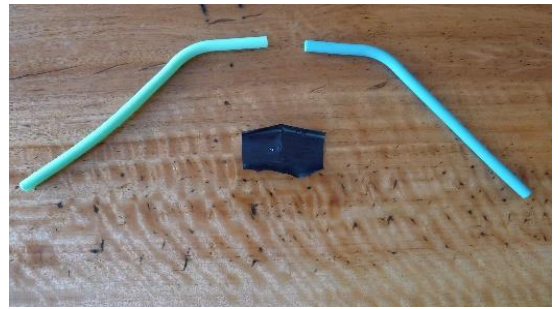
Handy hint: Make sure that the shorter container can hold the same amount of water as the taller container. This means there'll be less chance of flooding.

- Fill the taller container with water.
- Add one drop of blue food colouring.
You might need some help.
- Mark a line on the container to show the water level.



Step 2: Join two straws together with tape.

- Place two straws on the table with the shorter parts pointing towards each other.
- Cut a square of tape and place on the table sticky side up.
- Push the end of the two straws together. Make sure that there is no gap.
- Carefully roll the straws over the tape, so the tape seals all the way around.



You might need some help. If you have air gaps the experiments will not work.



Step 3: Test your syphon.

- Push most of the straw into the water. Make sure it has no kinks or folds.
- While the straw is still under water, use your finger to block the end of the straw that is out of the water.
- Keep the end of the straw blocked while you carefully lift most of the straw out of the water. Be sure to keep the other end under the water!
- Lower the straw down so that it is pointing into the shorter container and release your finger.
- The syphon should start. If not, try again! Sometimes it takes a few goes!

Handy hint: If you have to re-tape it, make sure the straws are dry or the tape will not stick.



Step 4: Check your results.

- When the syphon stops, mark the water level on the lower container.
- What do you notice?
- How long did it take to stop?



CHALLENGE! Why not make a super syphon? Test this experiment outside with a bucket and try to syphon water onto pot plants or plants in the garden.