

The Admiral Fitzroy Storm Glass

The Storm Glass Barometer came into general use in the early 1700's. Sailors attached this instrument to the mast of their ships and by interpretation of the constantly changing crystal formations, relied upon it to forecast good weather and forboding conditions at sea.

Admiral Robert Fitzroy (1805-1865), as commander of the HMS Beagle, participated in the Charles Darwin's expedition (1834-1836), and conducted a detailed study of this instrument. He refined the chemical formulation and published observational guidelines as indicated below.

- *Clear Liquid - bright and clear weather*
- *Cloudy Liquid sometimes with small stars and crystals at the top - cloudy weather and often predicts pending thunderstorms and rain.*
- *Small Dots in the Liquid - Humid or foggy weather*
- *Large Flaky Crystals - Cloudy skies, snow in winter*
- *Threads of crystals at the top - Windy weather*
- *Crystals at the Bottom - frost may be coming*

How this storm glass really works is a mystery, but it is believed that electromagnetic changes in weather patterns activate the crystals inside (sealed-glass chamber fills with crystals when air pressure decreases).

When you received our Storm Glass Barometer it will be in a state of disruption and may take a week or more to settle into an active state. The glass should start as a clear liquid to reset the barometer. If it is not clear, gently shake the tube to redistribute the crystals into the soluble liquid, and/or gently heat the tube with a hair dryer to dissolve any remaining crystals. **Do not** heat the glass until it becomes hot!

Place the Storm Glass Barometer when the liquid is clear, in an area of your home that is not subject to sudden temperature changes. It should **not** be subjected to sunlight or an outside wall, close to any heating or cooling vents or in a window that gets direct sunlight. It may be necessary to test different locations in your home to find the area of optimal operation of the Storm Glass Barometer.

Gradually as the temperature of the barometer stabilizes to room temperature, the liquid will start to appear white and crystals will start to appear. This is the normal activation cycle of the Storm Glass Barometer.

Leave the Storm Glass Barometer undisturbed, and over the next week it should begin doing its job of helping you to predict the weather.

It may be necessary to reset the barometer by gently shaking to redistribute the crystals into liquid before achieving optimal performance. The barometer will need to be reset two to three times a year to keep it's predictability.

The Optimal temperature range for crystal formation is from 41F (5C) - 86F (30C). Below and above these temperatures ranges the crystals will dissolve and the liquid will appear clear. Once the glass has returned to the optimal temperature range, the crystals will reform. To avoid these temperature swings, please do not place in a hot sunny window or in a cold or drafty location.

Warning: This instrument should be handled with care and kept out of the reach of children.

Contents contain flammable liquid and should be kept away from any combustible material.

In case of accidental ingestion seek professional assistance or contact a Poison Control Center immediately. In case of contact with skin, wash immediately with soap and water.

Contains Camphor, Distilled Water, Ethanol and other trace elements.

In case of breakage, clean spilt liquid with warm water and mild soap.