

Reading A Graduated Cylinder

A graduated cylinder is used to measure the volume of a liquid, usually in milliliters. To use a graduated cylinder correctly:

1. Determine what each unmarked line on the graduated cylinder represents.
2. Set the graduated cylinder on a flat surface and pour in the liquid to be measured.
3. Bring your eyes to the same level of the fluid's surface. (You will need to bend down!)
4. Read the graduated cylinder at the lowest point of the liquid's curve (called the meniscus).
5. If the curve falls between marks, estimate the volume to the closest mL.

The example below shows a graduated cylinder that contains 42 mL of liquid.

