

Rainfall Protocol

Field Guide

Task

Measure the amount of rain that has collected in your rain gauge.

Measure the pH of the rain.

Prepare the rain gauge to collect more rain.



What You Need

- A properly sited and mounted rain gauge
- [Integrated 1-Day Data Sheet](#)
- Clean sampling jar with cover for pH measurement samples
- Appropriate *Precipitation pH Lab Guide*
- Pen or Pencil

In the Field

1. Read the level of the water in your rain gauge; be sure your eyes are level with the water in the measuring tube. Read the level at the bottom of the meniscus.
2. Record the rainfall amount to the nearest one-tenth of a millimeter.
If there is no water in the rain gauge report 0.0 mm.
If there is less than 0.5 mm, record "T" for trace.
If you spill any water before measuring the amount of rain, record "M" for missing as the amount. (If you have only spilled a little, record the amount not spilled as metadata.)
3. Pour the water into the sampling jar and cover it for the pH measurement.
4. If there is water in the overflow tube:
 - a. Remove the measuring tube from the overflow tube.
 - b. Read the level of water in the measuring tube holding it so that your eyes are level with the meniscus.
 - c. Record the amount to the nearest one-tenth of a millimeter.
 - d. Pour the water from the measuring tube into the container for the pH measurement.
 - e. Pour water from the overflow tube into the measuring tube.
 - f. Repeat steps b through e until the overflow tube is empty.
 - g. Add your measurements and record the sum as the rainfall amount.
5. Record the number of days rain has accumulated in the gauge. (The number of days since the rain gauge was last checked and emptied.)
6. Perform the appropriate *Precipitation pH Lab Guide* (depending on which type of pH measuring device and salt you are using).
7. Dry the rain gauge and remount it on its post.