Storm Glass Instructions

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1. Introduction – Storm Glass History & How it Works

The storm glass or chemical weather glass is an antique weather instrument which was proposed as a method for predicting weather. It consisted of a special liquid placed inside a sealed transparent glass. The state of crystallization within the liquid was believed to be related to the weather changes.

The inventor is unknown but the device became popular in the 1860s after being promoted by the great English scientist Admiral Robert Fitzroy who claimed that:

If set up, undisturbed, in free air, not exposed to radiation, fire, or sun, but in the ordinary light of a well-ventilated room, or, preferably, in the outer air, the chemical mixture in a so-called weather predicting storm glass varies in character with the direction of the wind – not its force, specially (though it may so vary in appearance only) from another cause, electrical tension.

Weather glasses were used even before the 18th century. Among others, Defoe watched and registered them in 1703 but it is an instance of the necessity for repeating information, that, generally speaking, even now so little complete use is made of the instruments.

2. How to Reset Storm Glass - Guide

Sometime due to shipping process weather glass can get “stuck” – Which results in crystals just sitting at the bottom and storm glass not working correctly. Crystals can stay that way for weeks, if not months, even when the weather drastically changes.

If you notice a lack of change within your storm glass, it is very important that you reset it.

To reset your storm glass, carefully place it in a plastic container filled with mildly hot tap water and leave it there for about 20-40 minutes.

You can gently shake the glass every 5-10 minutes to move crystals around and speed up the process.

Repeat the process until all crystals dissolve and the liquid inside the weather glass becomes completely clear.

Once you reset your storm glass, dry it with a towel and let it cool down for 5-10 minutes.

Place it near a window or outer air and within a few hours the liquid inside your storm glass will begin to crystalize. Wollah, now you can enjoy this beautiful instrument!
From now on, your storm glass should be more reactive to weather changes, provided that you have placed it in the right place.

3. How to Read Storm Glass - Chart

Admiral Robert Fitzroy carefully documented how the storm glass would predict the weather:

- As the atmospheric current veers towards, comes from, or is only approaching from the polar direction, the chemical mixture inside weather glass – if closely, even microscopically watched, - is found to grow like fir, yew, fern leaves, or hoar frost – or like crystallizations.

Before or during the continuance of a northerly wind (polar current), the crystallizations are beautiful (if the mixture is correct, the glass a fixture, and duly placed); but the least motion of the liquid disturbs them.

- As the wind, or great body of air, tends more from the opposite quarter, the lines or spikes – all regular, hard, or crisp features, gradually diminish till they vanish.

Before and in a continued southerly wind the mixture sinks slowly downward in the vial, till it becomes shapeless, like melting white sugar.

Admiral Robert Fitzroy documented most common patterns of crystal formations inside a so called Storm Glass:

- If the liquid in the glass is clear, the weather will be bright and clear.
- If the liquid is cloudy, the weather will be cloudy as well, perhaps with precipitation.
- If there are small dots in the liquid, humid or foggy weather can be expected.
- A cloudy glass with small stars indicates thunderstorms.
- If the liquid contains small stars on sunny winter days, then snow is coming.
- If there are large flakes throughout the liquid, it will be overcast in temperate seasons or snowy in the winter.
- If there are crystals at the bottom, this indicates frost.
- If there are threads near the top, it will be windy.

As useful as these general conclusions are in most cases, they can be erroneous and then remarks may be rather hastily made towards the weather glass, tending to discourage the inexperienced.

In reality, accurately forecasting weather using a storm glass is not better than reading tea leaves. However, let’s not ruin the beauty and romance of this antique instrument by indulging in skepticism.

IF PLACED CORRECTLY, near a window or outer air. Storm glass WILL react to weather changes and serve as an extraordinary decoration for your home, patio or office.

For ANY other questions, please, do not hesitate to contact us via Amazon messaging system.

We would be happy to assist you in any way possible!

Team,

Constantinople Weather Predicting Storm Glass