

INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATED CYLINDERS

©1994 Sci-Ed Services

Graduated cylinders are used for measuring volume. Volume is the amount of space something occupies.

Graduated cylinders have marks (graduations) which tell us the quantity of liquid or gas that is in the cylinder.

The graduated cylinders used in most laboratories are graduated in metric units called milliliters (mL) or in parts of a milliliter. Some large graduated cylinders are graduated in centiliters, deciliters and even liters.

The large GC's used in this class have graduations equal to 1 mL each. The small GC's have graduations equal to 0.2 mL each.

When using the graduated cylinders you should always keep the plastic ring at the top of the cylinder to prevent damage to the cylinder if it tips over.

When reading the liquid level in a GC you should always

- read it from eye level (not looking down or up at it);
Note: If you hold the cylinder up to look at it, you must make sure it is not tilted.
If it is tilted, your reading may not be accurate enough.
- read the graduation closest to the bottom of the meniscus (curve in the surface

