

# Collecting Sky Dust with a Dry Collector

This procedure will collect sky dust using a nylon fabric collector. This is the simplest way to collect Sky Dust.

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## Gather your materials first.

### The collector.

The best collector is made from a five-foot square piece of lightweight, white, urethane-coated, rip-stop nylon. This material is commonly sold in fabric stores for making light rain gear.

- Sky dust is easier to see on a light colored collector, white preferred.
- The urethane coating makes a smooth surface so that it's easy to remove sky dust.
- This fabric is usually sold in 60-inch wide rolls. A five-foot length (five feet by five feet or about 1.25 square meters) is large enough to be effective, but not too large to handle.

### A kiddy wading pool.

A stiff plastic kiddy wading pool is the best way to set out the collector and move it around. These are commonly sold in children's stores and big box outlets.

- The ideal pool size is about five feet across the bottom.
- The pool can be reused, but store it out of direct sunlight so it won't become brittle.

### Plastic zipper bags.

- You will need two clean gallon-size plastic zipper bags, one labeled "Clean", the other "Sample".

### Duct tape.

## Preparing the collector.

1. Identify the collector. Use an indelible marker to place a unique identification in each corner, "C-1" for example.
2. Wash and carefully rinse the collector. Suspend the collector with clothespins on a line indoors away from sources of contamination until dry.
3. Fold the collector.
  - a) Lift the bottom edge of the collector up to the top edge so that the coated side closes on itself.
  - b) Remove the collector from the line.
  - c) Fold in half long ways so that the collector is quartered and square in shape again.
  - d) Fold the bundle in thirds one way.
  - e) Fold the bundle in thirds the other way. The final bundle will be about ten inches square.
  - f) Slide the collector into the plastic zipper bag labeled "Clean" and seal.



Clean collector and filters

4. Insure that the kiddy pool is reasonably clean to avoid unnecessary contamination.

### Setting up the Collector.

**NB: This takes three or more people.**

1. Have two people remove and unfold the collector so that the coated side is up.
2. Lower the collector into the kiddie pool and center it, coated side up.
  - The coated side has less sheen and feels rubbery compared to the uncoated side.
  - Your fingernail will make a whistling sound when flicked across the uncoated side, but not on the coated side.
3. Tape the collector in place with eight pieces of duct tape, one in each corner and each side.



Placing the collector into the pool.

### Retrieving the collector.

1. Carefully remove the duct tape from the collector. Place a finger on the nylon and peel the tape toward the pool end of the strip.
2. To avoid unnecessary contamination, be careful not to allow your hair or clothing to hang over the collector.
3. Fold one side toward the center of the collector.

4. Fold the opposite side toward the center of the collector. This will place the edges of these sides together at the center.
5. Repeat these folds for the remaining two sides. The collector will now be lying in the bottom of the pool, a quarter of its full size and square in shape.
6. Fold the bundle in thirds one way.
7. Fold the bundle in thirds the other way. The final bundle will be about ten inches square.
8. Slide the collector into the plastic zipper bag labeled "Sample" and seal.
9. Add the Time, Date, and location to the bag label.

### Rain or Wind

- If weather threatens your collection, simply fold the kiddie pool and tie a clean rope around it.
- Carry and store the folded pool with the fold down and level so that sky dust will remain on the collector.
- Put the pool out again and continue collecting when the weather clears.



The collector is easy to move and store.