

TINY LIGHTNING

Making Static Electricity

When two different materials are rubbed against each other, static electricity can be created. However, some combinations of materials can make more static electricity than others. Here are some combinations for creating the most static electricity.



Styrofoam and Cloth

Rub a Styrofoam plate with a cloth. Then place the Styrofoam plate close to your hair. Your hair will stick to the plate.

Plastic and Wool

Rub a plastic spoon with a wool scarf in one direction. Then sprinkle some black pepper on a table. Bring the spoon close to the pepper and watch the pepper jump to the spoon.



Dry Skin and Carpet

Rub your barefeet on a carpet. Then touch a metal surface such as a doorknob. Did you feel the static shock?



Online Resources



TINY LIGHTNING

Lightning Facts

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 - Lightning strikes usually last around 1 to 2 microseconds.
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- Lightning contains millions of volts of electricity.
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- The average temperature of lightning is around 20 000°C.
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- Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun.
- Contrary to popular belief, lightning can strike the same spot more than once.
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- Lightning is usually produced by cumulonimbus clouds that are very tall and dense.
- The study of lightning is known as fulminology.
- Astraphobia is the fear of thunder and lightning.
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- Lightning can also occur during volcanic eruptions, dust storms, snow storms, and tornadoes.



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Did you know that by counting the time between when you see a flash of lightning and when you hear thunder, you can determine how far you are from the lightning? Next time during a thunderstorm, start counting the number of seconds there are once you see lightning until you hear its thunder. Then divide the number of seconds you counted by 3. The answer you get is the approximate distance in kilometers between you and the lightning.

