Thank you for purchasing our Sand Timer

Use of the Sand Timer

The product you have has been built to the highest standards and should give years of reliable service. Your sand timer is robust and built to withstand everyday use but as it contains glass we recommend you treat it with care.

To give the maximum protection against breakages the internal hourglass is encased in a strong plastic outer case and foam supports.

Accuracy

Sand Timers give a clear visual indication of passing time but should not be relied upon for accurate time keeping. Every care is taken to ensure their accuracy but please allow a tolerance plus or minus of up to 10%.

A Brief History of the Hourglass Sand Timer

It is only with the introduction of the mechanical clock that time began to be measured in discrete units. Before the 15th century time was thought to be flowing. Dried sand passing from one container to another through a narrow aperture was unaffected by weather, so the hourglass sand timer became the ultimate expression of flowing time measuring a unit.

Public speeches and sermons were the most notable events timed with a sandglass. One of the greatest pleasures of our Puritan ancestors was the two hour Sunday sermon. Hourglasses were placed upon the pulpit and woe betide he who overran the two full hours. During the reign of Queen Victoria an eighteen minute glass appeared in her church which was seen by Newspapers to be a protest from Her Majesty at the length of the sermons.

Because hourglass sand timers remain relatively unaffected by heat, cold and movement, they have a long history at sea. There are records of sandglasses in ships' inventories from about 1400 A.D. Small sandglasses were used as interval timers to measure speed in navigation. A log was thrown over the side with a line knotted about every 47 feet attached to it. The speed at which the knots ran out was measured by the 28 second glass, giving nautical speed in "knots."

Today sand timers are commonly used in games, education and any occasion when a visual time stimulus is required.