

How to Make Perfume

Adapted from *The Boy Mechanic: Volume 1, 700 Things For Boys To Do* by Popular Mechanics

DIRECTIONS: Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Write the supporting details on the lines.

The real perfume from the flowers is not always contained in the liquid purchased for perfume. The most expensive perfume can be made at home for less than 10 cents an ounce. The equipment necessary is a large bottle or glass jar with a smaller bottle to fit snugly into the open mouth of the large one. Secure a small piece of very fine sponge and wash it clean to thoroughly remove all grit and sand.

Saturate the sponge with pure olive oil, do not use strong oil, and place it inside of the smaller bottle.

Fill the large bottle or jar with flowers, such as roses, carnations, pansies, honeysuckles or any flower having a strong and sweet odor. Place the small bottle containing the sponge upside down in the large one, as shown in the illustration.

The bottle is now placed in the sun and kept there for a day and then the flowers are removed and fresh ones put in. Change the flowers each day as long as they bloom. Remove the sponge and squeeze out the oil. For each drop of oil add 2 oz. of grain alcohol. If stronger perfume is desired add only 1 oz. alcohol to each drop of oil.



1. What is the first step in making perfume?

- A. Wash the sponge.
- B. Fill a jar with flowers.
- C. Gather together the equipment

2. When do you place the bottle in the sun?

- A. Before you fill it with flowers
- B. Before you put in the smaller bottle
- C. When the bottle contains the flowers, the smaller bottle, and the sponge.

3. When do you add the grain alcohol?

- A. When you put in the flowers
- B. When you put in the sponge
- C. When you take out the sponge and squeeze out the oil.