

Assessing Suitability & Using Thickened Fluids.

Please refer to the Consumables Parts Pack info sheet, Drinkup / Drinkup Travel Lite Quick Start Guide, User Manual & info sheets for comprehensive information. Risk of choking on fluids & small parts. Assessment by a suitability qualified practitioner required prior to unsupervised use by children or adults. Allow boiling/hot drinks to cool.

We are often asked these two questions;

- Can we try the Drinkup before buying it? Because we're not sure if it is suitable.
- Do thickened fluids work with Drinkup?

Trying the Drinkup

In the past we used to have a few 'trial use' Drinkups available to practitioners. A couple of stockists also lent units for trial. However, this was a time consuming and costly exercise, due to dispatch and return carriage, checking, cleaning/disinfecting and repackaging. It wasn't an easy method.

The best, quickest and cheapest way to try the actual principles of using the Drinkup system, is to buy only the Consumables Parts pack from one of our stockists, and carry out the assessment whilst physically holding the drinking tube in place for the user/client. Meaning, the actual Drinkup 'hardware' is not required to support the drinking tube for the purposes of a basic trial. Providing it is understood where the Drinkup/Drinkup Travel Lite will be positioned if it were purchased, one can estimate the direction/angle and approximate set-up which will suit the users'/clients' situation and arrangement e.g. where the chair/bed is in relation to a side table, or where other items might be attached to a wheelchair or powerchair.

Please note: The approx. reach of the Drinkup and Drinkup Travel Lite flexible arm is 700-750mm. Whilst the Drinkup is free-standing, the Drinkup Travel Lite is designed for attachment to a wheelchair/cot side frame with a round section tube diameter of 22mm to 38mm diameter (the fixing clamp is attached using a hex key and is not quick release and is not designed for repeated fitting and removal).

To test the coordination of the gentle bite, lip seal and suck actions required to use the Drinkup in the 'normal' way: Essentially, the bite valve is attached to the drinking tube, the bite valve is offered up to the client and the other end of the drinking tube is held in a glass of water (or whatever drink is preferred). Different drinking tube elevations can also be tested (as it's easier to suck fluids along a horizontal tube rather than a vertical tube). If the user/client has difficulty coordinating these actions, has a weak 'suck ability' or is completely unable to suck, the Drinkup and the Drinkup Travel Lite may be used in the 'Safe-Siphon' mode, whereby taking advantage of gravity, having 'primed' the drinking tube using a bite valve adaptor and a large capacity syringe. There is an info sheet which explains this method of use.

Please note: If you intend using the 'Safe-Siphon' mode with the Drinkup Travel Lite attached to a wheelchair or powerchair - The chair frame is unlikely to extend above the user's head height sufficiently to allow the correct set-up and gravity feed. Therefore, a proprietary or custom-made post/mount may be needed, onto which the Drinkup Travel Lite can be fitted at the correct level above head height.

Thickened Fluids

The answer is yes, thickened fluids may be used with Drinkup/Drinkup Travel Lite. However, because some people need thicker fluids than others, the friction/stickiness in the drinking tube will vary. Generally, more viscous fluids have less resistance and therefore will be easier to suck (or will flow easier if using the 'Safe-Siphon' mode). In simple terms, pouring cream or thin custard viscosity works OK, whereas thicker drinks tend to get sluggish. Some thickeners will congeal and block the tube fairly quickly.

For more information please visit www.drinkup.uk.com or email us at info@drinkup.uk.com or contact our appointed stockists