

WIND SPEEDS FROM FLAGS

BEAUFORT METHOD



Find a flag blowing in the wind. This method requires no math but more of a subjective reading. The **Beaufort Method** uses large heavy flags found at military bases or weather stations.

Observe how it reacts to the wind. If the flag is not moving at all, the wind speed is below **11 mph**.

Observe the flag. If it flaps lightly and sporadically, the wind is blowing at around **12 to 18 mph**.

Estimate the flapping of the flag. If the flag is flapping over the whole length of the flag, it is blowing at around **19 to 24 mph**.

Measure how far the flag extends in the wind. If it is partially extended and flaps quickly, the wind speed is **25 to 31 mph**. A fully extended flag flapping hard in the wind will be around **32 to 37 mph**.

It is not possible to use a flag to measure any higher as the flag will react in the same way, even with harsher winds.