



A porous pot is filled with a rubber bung and a length of glass tubing and is set up vertically into a beaker of water.

When the porous pot is surrounded by gas from the lab supply shown above, the gas diffuses into the pot more rapidly than air molecules diffuse outwards.

The pressure in the pot therefore, increases and as a result, bubbles appear at the end of the tube as illustrated in A).

If the inverted beaker containing the gas is taken away, the outward diffusion of gas already inside the pot is more rapid than the inward diffusion of air.

Consequently, the reduced pressure inside the water is forced up the tube as illustrated in B).

2. Surface tension is the tendency of a liquid surface to behave like a stretched elastic skin trying to contract.