Background:

The density of a substance is the mass of the substance divided by the volume it occupies

Density= $\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$

Mass is defined as the amount of matter in a substance. Volume is defined as the amount of three-dimensional space occupied by a substance. Density is an intensive property. An intensive property is defined as a physical property of matter that does not depend on the sample size. In other words, breaking a sample of a pure substance into smaller pieces does not affect the density of the individual pieces. For example the density of water is 1.00 g/ml. Whether you have a drop, a glass, or a bucket of water, its density is always 1.00 g/ml. Intensive properties can be used to identify a substance. Can you list any other physical properties that you think are intensive?

Density of a liquid is often reported along with the temperature at which it was measured since the density of a liquid will vary with temperature.

Procedure:

1) To find the density of a **block or cube**, obtain the mass using a balance and the volume by using a ruler and an equation. Measure each side in centimeters and use the following formula to calculate the volume:

- 2) To find the density of an **irregular solid**, obtain the mass by using a balance and find the volume by a method called "water displacement." Obtain a medium-sized plastic graduated cylinder (50-100 mL) and half-fill with water. Note the volume by reading at the meniscus and record this volume in the data table. Carefully tilt the graduate and allow the irregular object to slowly slide down into the water. Read the new volume at the meniscus and record it in the data table. The change in volume is due to the volume of the solid. Record the volume of the solid.
- 3) To find the density of a liquid obtain a 25-mL wide-mouthed glass graduated cylinder and mass on a balance. Record this in the data table. Transfer 5 mL of substance into a small beaker. <u>Stand the massed graduate onto the lab bench</u> and then transfer the substance from the beaker directly into the graduate being careful not to spill it down the outside of the graduate. Now mass the graduate and its contents and record the mass in the data table. Obtain the volume of the substance by reading at the meniscus.

Data: Record your data in the separate data table sheet.

Calculations: Show all work and units! Use the reverse side if necessary.

Adapted from Deanna York, Teacher Friendly Chemistry.