

Van de Graaff generator

Ask a phaenowoman or a phaenoman when the next Van de Graaff generator show will happen.



Watch what happens when someone is charged by the Van de Graaff generator.

The person's hair stands on end.

The big metal ball is given a high-voltage electrical charge by the rubber band. The charge spreads over the ball and everything that touches it, including the volunteer. Charges of the same kind repel each other – so the volunteer's hair spreads out in all directions.

Please note that children who stand not 1.3 metres tall are not allowed to try the experiment.