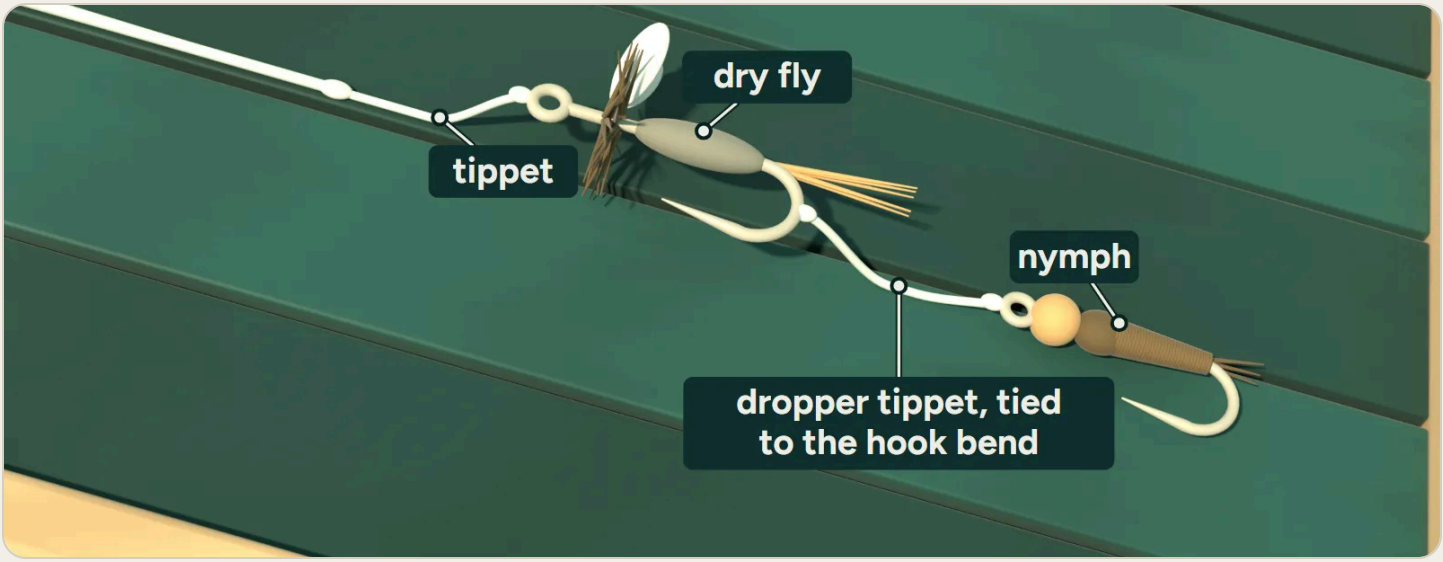
THE DRY DROPPER, RIGGED IN ORDER

A dry dropper is a dry fly that floats, with a small nymph tied below it on a length of tippet. The dry shows you the take; the nymph fishes the water under it.



Tippet to the dry fly; dropper tippet tied to the hook bend; nymph. Not to scale. Illustration: Fly Findr

RIG IT

1	**Pick a dry that floats the nymph**	A foam fly such as a Chubby Chernobyl, or a hopper, floats a tungsten-bead nymph. An Elk Hair Caddis or a Stimulator floats a small brass-bead or unweighted nymph.
2	**Leader and tippet**	A 7½ to 9 ft 4X leader, with a length of tippet tied to its thin end.
3	**Tie on the dry**	To that tippet, with an improved clinch knot: 5 to 7 wraps, wet it, pull tight, trim the tag.
4	**Dropper tippet**	5X (one size finer than the 4X leader), tied to the bend of the dry's hook with an improved clinch knot.
5	**Dropper length**	About as deep as the water where fish hold: 12 to 18 in. in shallow riffles, 24 to 36 in. in deeper runs. Never touch bottom: go longer. Keep snagging: go shorter.
6	**Tie on the nymph**	Small and dense, size 14 to 20: Zebra Midge, Pheasant Tail, Perdigon or Frenchie.
7	**Float the dry**	Dress the dry with floatant before you fish.

FISH IT

- Slow your casting stroke and open your loop, so the flies don't tangle. False cast no more than you need to.
- Cast upstream and mend to keep the dry drifting drag-free.
- Riffles and pocket water 1 to 4 ft deep. Deeper or fast water: switch to an indicator nymph rig.

How to tell a take. Watch the dry. If it goes under, stops, twitches, pauses or dips, set the hook: a fish has the nymph, or took the dry.

Some waters allow only one fly or one hook. Check the regulations before you rig two.