

Homeowner Infiltration Test



Setup: 1 hour; +/-24 hours pre-soak time

Test: Measure at 1-hour intervals for 5 hours

SUPPLIES

Digging tool: shovel or post hole digger

Measuring tape

Ruler or piece of wood

Camera

Timer

Pencil and paper (charts)



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INSTRUCTIONS

Setup

1. **Dig a hole** near the proposed project location to the depth shown on the chart on the next page.
2. **Pre-soak the hole.** Do not skip this step! Fill hole with water and wait until all water has drained away. If water drains away within 1 hour, repeat. This step is usually done a day before the test.

Test

1. **Refill the hole with water** and lay a ruler or piece of wood across the top of the hole.
2. **Measure the distance** from the ruler or piece of wood to the surface of the water. Record the time and distance in the test chart.
3. **Repeat Step 4 every hour.** This will take 5 hours unless the hole drains completely in less time.



1



2



3



4

Charts and Other Important Details



Always contact Miss Utility to mark underground public utilities prior to digging. Call 811 or visit www.va811.com



Take photos of inside of the hole you dig as well as of the soil removed from the hole. Send to the District along with your completed test chart.



Watch the instructional video at <https://youtu.be/i03gYNbaicE>

DEPTH CHART

Practice	Test Hole Depth
Rain Garden, Permeable Pavement	12-18 inches
Dry Well, Infiltration Trench, Bioretention	24-36 inches

TEST CHART

Record time and distance measurements in the chart below and send to the Conservation District. Staff will calculate the infiltration rate of your soil and contact you to discuss results.

Hole Depth		Time	Measurement (from ruler or piece of wood to water surface)	Drop	Infiltration Rate
_____ inches					
Time Lapse (Hours)	0			Below For District Staff Use	
	1				
	2				
	3				
	4				
	5				
Name: Address: Soil Type (if known):				Final Rate	