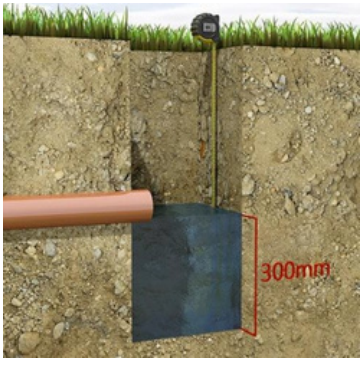
How To: Percolation Test

Step 1: Dig the Holes

Mark out three test holes - a minimum of 5 metres apart from each other that are 300mm x 300mm wide, and 300mm deep, below the proposed invert level of the outlet pipe. The test holes must be below the invert level.

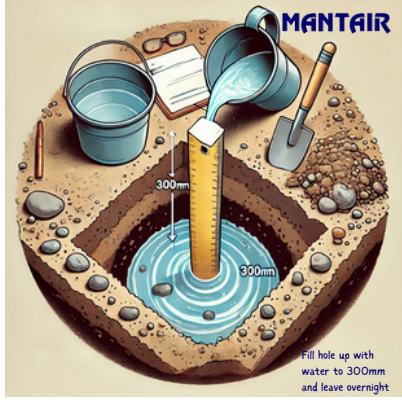
Where the invert level is quite deep you may need to excavate a larger area to safely reach the outlet pipe depth.

Please refer to Building Regulations Part H2 1.34



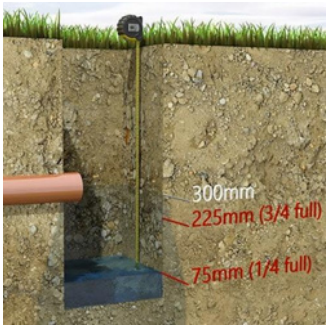
Step 2: Saturate the soil

Clear the hole of any loose debris (including stones or lumps of soil). Use your measuring tape or ruler to mark out a depth of 300mm inside the test hole.



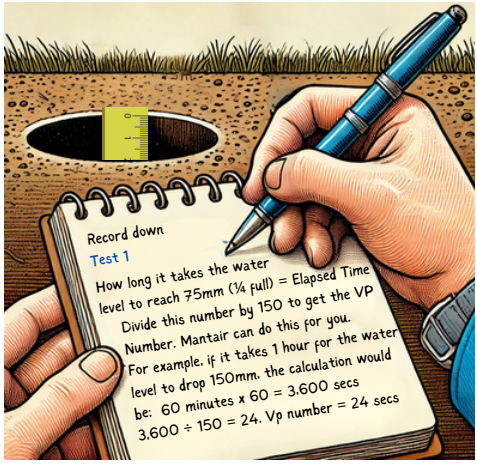
Fill the hole up to this 300mm depth mark. Allow this water to seep away overnight.

Step 3: Determine the percolation rate



The next day, refill the test hole with water up to a depth of 300mm, and observe how quickly the water seeps away.

When the water level drops to 225mm (¾ full) — start timing, in seconds, how long it takes the water level to reach 75mm (¼ full). This gives you the time it took the water level to drop 150mm (the elapsed time).



Percolation Test Results Note down your test results below and return to us

Hole 1		Hole 2		Hole 3	
Test 1		**Test 1**		**Test 1**	
Start Time		Start Time		Start Time	
End Time		End Time		End Time	
Elapsed Time (h/mins)		Elapsed Time (h/mins)		Elapsed Time (h/mins)	
Test 2		**Test 2**		**Test 2**	
Start Time		Start Time		Start Time	
End Time		End Time		End Time	
Elapsed Time (h/mins)		Elapsed Time (h/mins)		Elapsed Time (h/mins)	
Test 3		**Test 3**		**Test 3**	
Start Time		Start Time		Start Time	
End Time		End Time		End Time	
Elapsed Time (h/mins)		Elapsed Time (h/mins)		Elapsed Time (h/mins)	