

RAINSCAPES REWARDS

Soil Percolation Testing



Environmentally Friendly Landscapes for Healthier Watersheds

Property Owner: _____

Date(s) of test: _____

Property Address: _____

days since last rain: _____

Hole descriptions

Depth/ Location of Test Hole(s)
(e.g. 24" deep/ Center of front lawn)

Hole 1 _____

Hole 2 _____

Add extra holes for larger gardens per our recommendations)

Follow step-by-step instructions on pages 2 &3

Note: The hole(s) must drain within 36 hours each time in order to pass.

Drain Time (hours)

Water Depth - Enter water depth in inches

Example

Hole #1

Hole # 2

Start time	1st fill 24"	2nd fill 24"	1st fill	2nd fill	1st fill	2nd fill
6	12"	18"				
12	6"	12"				
18	3"	9"				
24	X	4"				
30		X				
36 (or enter end time above)						

Test Performed by:

- Homeowner
 Contractor

Pass? (check if yes)

Rain Gardens:

One test hole for every 100 square feet in larger gardens. Otherwise, one hole is sufficient.

If it does not pass, please consider a conservation landscape or underdrained rain garden instead.

If it passes but is slow draining, you will have better success if you choose wet soil adapted plants. These are typically listed as facultative wetland species or wet meadow species. Plant lists can be found on the RainScapes Plant resources and in the RainScapes Garden Templates publication.



DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND

Permeable Pavement:

One test hole adjacent to the driveway or paved area, halfway between house and property line **OR** where possible close to the paved area.

For pavement projects, add an underdrain if it does not pass.



Questions? Call 311 or email RainScapes@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov • RainScapes.org



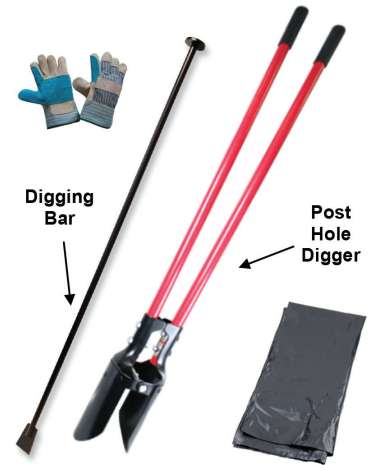
1

Contact Miss Utility 48 hours in advance to mark underground utilities:
missutility.net/maryland
or 1-800-257-7777 or 811



2

The tools you will need are a digging bar, gloves and a post hole digger. The trash bag is for the soil you dig out of the hole.



3

Use the digging bar to break up the soil for removal with the post hole digger.



4

Using the post hole digger, remove the soil and place it on the trash bag.





5

Dig a hole that is 2 feet deep and 1 foot wide to the depth of excavation.*



6

Fill the hole to the top with water. Record the time.



7

Cover the hole for safety purposes.



8

Check the hole periodically. When it is empty, record the time. Calculate how long it took to drain.



9

If the first fill takes less than 36 hours to drain, repeat steps 6-8 in the same hole. Record the time for the second fill. If first or second fill takes longer than 36 hours to drain, then the perc test has failed, and a project such as a conservation landscape should be considered instead. After testing is completed, fill the hole with soil.



** If the excavation will be 3 feet, then a 3-foot deep hole is required.*

