

Work instruction:	Date Raised
Percolation Test for Drainage Field from a FOUL Source (ie Septic Tank)	18/06/2012

Work Description

Method for assessing suitability of soakaway / septic tank

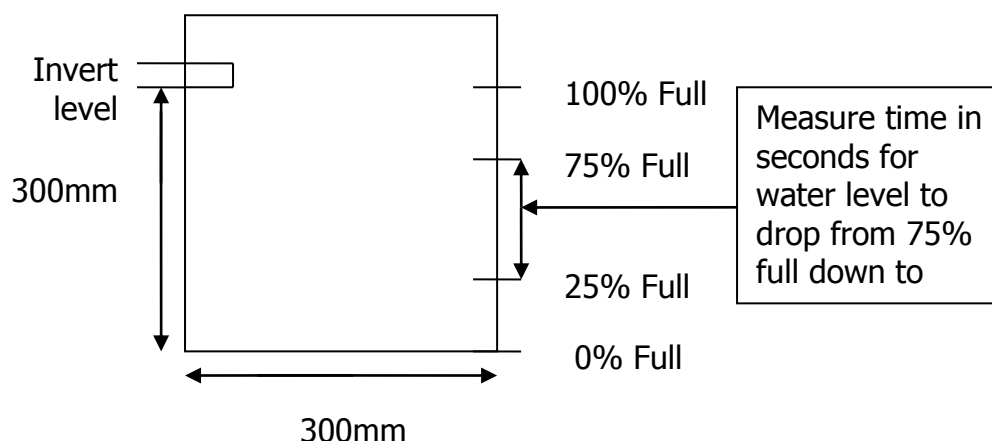
Instruction

FIRST DAY

- Calculate the invert level of the outlet pipe / effluent distribution pipe.
 - There will generally be an outlet inspection chamber downstream of the septic tank where an invert level can be obtained.
 - If not try to measure invert level of outlet pipe within septic tank.
- Excavate two holes spaced out in area of assumed soakaway arrangement (area downstream from septic tank). Holes should be;
 - 300mm below invert of outlet pipe
 - 300mm squared
 - Where deep drains are necessary this 300mm hole can be excavated at the base of a larger deeper hole to get down to required depth.
- Fill the 300mm squared sections of the holes to a depth of at least 300mm with water (i.e. from base of the hole up to invert level of outlet pipe). Cover the holes to prevent rain entering the hole, cordon off the area around the hole for health and safety and allow it seep away overnight.

SECOND DAY


- Refill both holes with water to a depth of at least 300mm and observe the time, in seconds, for the water to seep away from 75% full down to 25% full (i.e. a depth of 150mm)



- Divide this time (in secc) by 150mm answer gives the average time in seconds required for the water to drop 1mm. This is known as the Vp.
- The test should be carried out at least three times in at least two holes. The average figure from tests should be taken. Anything outside of a 12-100 Vp and the ground is not suitable for a drainage disposal field (soakaway system).

Responsibilities

Drainage Investigation & Site Investigation Engineers

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Key Objectives
To identify whether the system is designed correctly / performing efficiently All in accordance with WRc – The Drain Repair Book – 4th Edition, best practice manual for the inspection and repair of domestic and light industrial drains