

# How to perform a Soil Infiltration Test

## You will need:

- a stainless steel tube approx 75 x 130mm with a 3" mark from its base
- a hammer
- block of wood
- 107ml water (in a small bottle) x with a bigger bottle of water to top up
- stopwatch (on your phone!)



## METHOD (best performed late spring)

1. Choose your locations - e.g. 2-4 spots at least 20m off a boundary and one control eg. under a hedge when no wheels/feet have been
2. Drive the tube evenly in to the ground, keeping it level, by hammering the block sitting evenly on top
3. Bang in to ground so the base of the tube goes in to the soil by 3" i.e. to the pre made mark
4. Pour 107mls water in to the ring and start the stop watch. Stop when the water has infiltrated and the surface only glistens.
5. Compare with your control using EXACTLY the same technique. The longer it takes compared to your control, the more compaction that you are likely to have!

### Points to note:

- If the water is not disappearing at all, you likely have a compaction issue at that point - do several tests in different areas to ensure you have representative samples of that field and compare with your control.
- It is also worth checking the core of soil from the tube - if the soil is dry in the middle but wet around the outside, the water has “cheated” by going around the outside of the soil core - giving you a false reading that it infiltrated quickly!

***Please call or email us if you would like help with the technique or the interpretation of your results.  
We are here to help!***

*With thanks to Niels Corfield for his invaluable input.*