DR. DIRT'S SOIL TESTS ANYONE CAN DO AT HOME · TEST 4 OF 11

The Can Soak Test

How fast does rain sink into your soil?



Time: 15 minutes to an hour | Kids and grown-ups together

You will need

- ☐ A metal can with both ends cut off (a grown-up's job; tape the sharp edges)
- ☐ A small board and a hammer
- ☐ A ruler, a marker and a timer
- ☐ A jug of water

Try it

1. Inside the can, draw a line 1 inch (2.5 cm) from one end.
2. Set the can on the soil, other end down. Lay the board on top and tap it in about 2 inches (5 cm).
3. Pour water in up to the line and start the timer.
4. Stop the timer when the water is gone and the soil just glistens.
5. Do it again in the same spot. The **second** time is your answer.

What it means

Under 10 minutes

Rain soaks in well. Lots of open spaces in the soil.

10 to 60 minutes

Slow. In a big storm, water may run off.

Over an hour

Packed down or crusted. Water runs off and roots run short of air.

> **Compare:** Test a garden bed and a path. The difference is what feet and bare ground do to soil.

Wonder: *Where in your yard does water sink in the fastest?*

My result