

# Step 3: Evaluate Your Site: Soil and Watershed

## Soil Drainage and Percolation Test (Homeowner's Guide)

### Day 1

1. Dig one cubic foot hole (12"x12"x12")
2. Fill the hole with water to saturate the soil
3. Let drain overnight

### Day 2

1. Lay a stick over the hole
2. Refill the hole with water to the level of the stick
3. Wait one hour
4. Measure how far the water level has dropped to determine the infiltration rate per hour

Note: Use the soil from the hole to do a worm count & test the texture of your soil

### Drainage Test

Here's a simple way to evaluate your soil drainage.



1. DIG A HOLE

Dig a hole 12 inches wide x 12 inches deep, putting the soil to the side to be used for the Squeeze Test and the Worm Test.



2. FILL WITH WATER

Fill the hole with water and let it drain overnight.



3. FILL WITH WATER AGAIN

Use a stick to span the hole from the top of the stick to the bottom of the pit. Measure the distance again in one hour.

# Step 3:

## Evaluate Your Site: Soil and Watershed

### Soil Drainage Field Percolation Test

| Inches per Hr. | Drainage    | Solutions   |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| Less than 1"   | <b>Slow</b> | Add organics<br>Create mounds<br>Select tolerant plants |
| 1" - 3"        | <b>OK</b>   |   |
| More than 4"   | <b>Fast</b> | Add organics<br>Create mounds<br>Select tolerant plants |