

BRE365 Percolation Testing: Your Questions Answered

A Handy Guide to Understanding the BRE365 Test



Understanding the Test

What is a BRE365 percolation test?

The BRE365 percolation test is the UK standard method for measuring how quickly water drains through your soil. This test determines the correct size for a soakaway or confirms if your ground is suitable for one, ensuring your surface water drainage meets building regulations and helps prevent future flooding.

Why might I need a BRE365 test?

You'll typically require a BRE365 test if you're installing a new soakaway for a driveway, extension, or garden drainage system. Local Planning Authorities and Building Control officers often request a BRE365 report as proof that your proposed drainage solution is viable and won't cause issues for your property or neighbouring properties.

The Total Landscaping & Groundworks Process

Who carries out the test?

Our fully trained, certified operatives perform the test. We're not just testers; we are drainage and groundworks specialists. This means we understand the practical application of the results and can recommend cost-effective solutions based on our findings.

How is the BRE365 test done?

- We dig specific test pits at your proposed soakaway location.
- The pits are pre-soaked to simulate real ground conditions.
- We meticulously measure the water drop at set intervals over several hours.
- Using the official BRE365 formulae, we calculate the precise percolation rate and required soakaway size.
- You receive a clear, professional report ready for submission.

What information will I receive?

Your report will include test pit locations, all measurements, the calculated percolation value (Vp), soakaway size recommendations, and our expert conclusions. This document is formatted for easy submission to planning or building control.

How long does the test take?

The on-site work usually takes between half a day and a full day, depending on ground conditions. We manage all set-up, monitoring, and reinstatement, ensuring minimal disruption to you.