

HOW TO CHECK WELL PUMP FLOW RATE

NOTE: Make sure that the pressure tank is full and no one uses any water until you have finished the test.

For this test, you will need

- a. A container of known volume – e.g. a 10 gal pail
- b. A hose to connect to the pressure tank
- c. A stop watch

TEST

- 1) Connect the hose to an appropriate outlet at the bottom of the pressure tank and put the other end in the empty pail
- 2) Open the valve to which the hose is connected and collect water into the container. Shut off the valve as soon as you hear the well pump come on. Measure the volume of water collected. This is the drawdown from the tank
- 3) Note the time in seconds that it takes for the pump to complete a cycle from start to shut-off.

Well pump flow rate = (Volume of water collected (drawdown) ÷ Time for pump cycle) x 60

EXAMPLE 1 : If you collect 5 gal of water and the pump cycle is 40 seconds, the flow rate is:

$$(5/40) \times 60 = 7.5 \text{ GPM.}$$

EXAMPLE 2 : If you collect 6 gal of water and pump cycle is 80 seconds, flow rate is:

$$(6/80) \times 60 = 4.5 \text{ GPM}$$

