

Use this Catch Can Test to measure water distribution around your lawn, evaluate your irrigation system's performance & promote water conservation in Houston!

How to Perform a Catch Can Test

- I. Equipped with 5-10 catch cans (tuna cans, small plastic containers, etc.), a measuring tape, a timer and a notebook, identify a small area in your lawn watered by an irrigation system.
- 2. Distribute the cans evenly across this area, ensuring that they're the same distance from your sprinkler head. Mark where you place the cans for future tests.
- 3. Turn on your sprinkler as you normally would and record the amount of time it stays on.
- 4. Once your sprinkler is done watering your lawn, use your measuring tape to record the water depth in each catch can, and note the average water depth across all your cans.
- 5. Compare the amount of water in each can, noting if any have significantly more or less water than the others.
- 6. Make adjustments to your irrigation system as necessary based on your results, adjusting to ensure water is evenly distributed across your irrigation zone. Repeat the test as needed after making adjustments or changing your irrigation system.



Why Is the Catch Can Test Important?

This test helps ensure that your plants are getting the water intake they need without being over- or under-watered. It also cuts down on your water bill and conserves water by showing you where your irrigation system is wasting water.

Additionally, it makes your plants healthier, keeping them resilient against Houston's aggressive climate, including heat and flooding.

You can help conserve water by sharing this information with your neighbors!





