



**INFILTRATOR**  
water technologies



# Pipes, Pores, and Other Pathways

## Hydraulic Engineering Principles for Onsite Installers

David Lentz, P.E.

# Important Disclaimer

The materials being presented represent the presenter's opinions, and do NOT reflect the opinions of NOWRA.

# Solids, Liquids, and Gases



Solid



Liquid



Gas

# Solids, Liquids, and Gases



Solid

## Fluids



Liquid



Gas

# Solids, Liquids, and Gases



Solid

Hydraulics



Liquid

Pneumatics

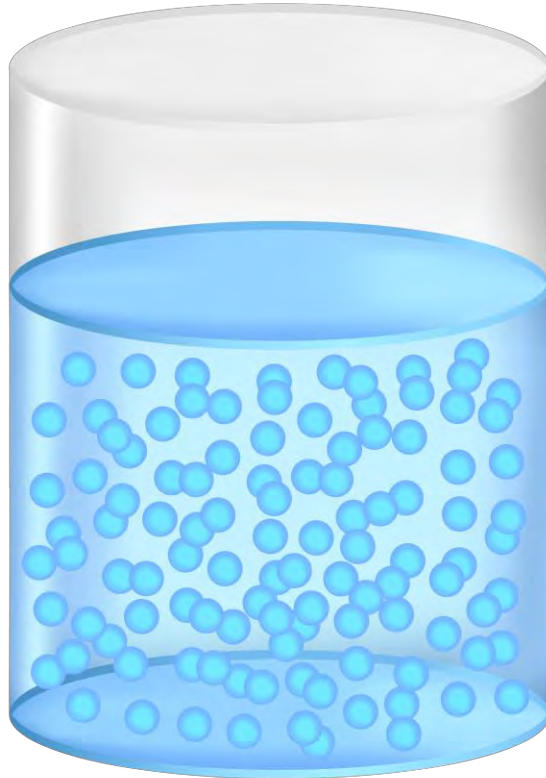


Gas

# What's the Molecular Difference?



**SOLID**



**LIQUID**



**GAS**

# Today's Topic - Hydraulics

Hydraulics



Liquid

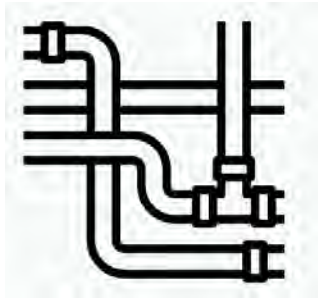
# Hydraulics Throughout the Onsite System



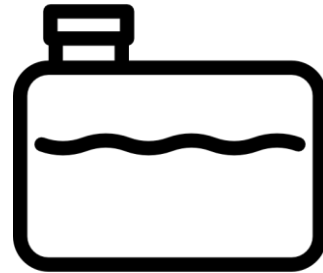


# What are we Going to Cover?

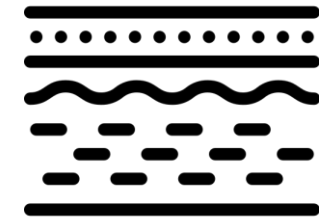
Pipes



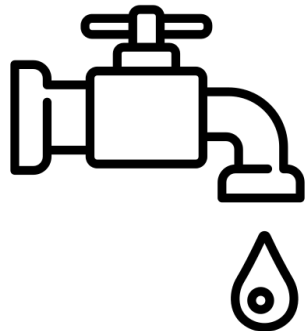
Septic Tank



Drainfield



Daily Flow



Stormwater

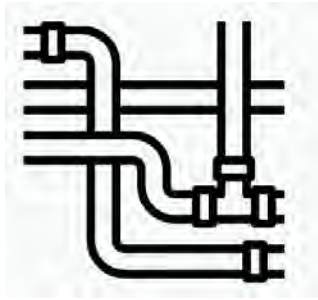


Equipment

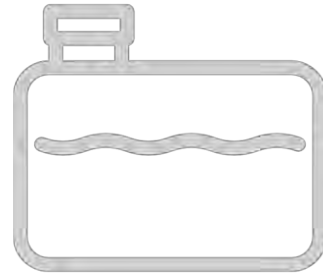


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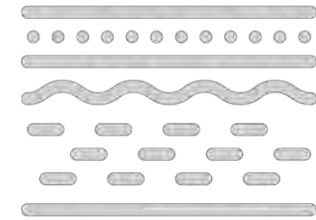
Pipes



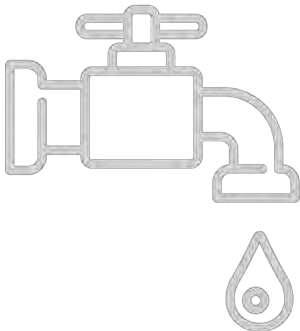
Septic Tank



Drainfield



Daily Flow



Stormwater

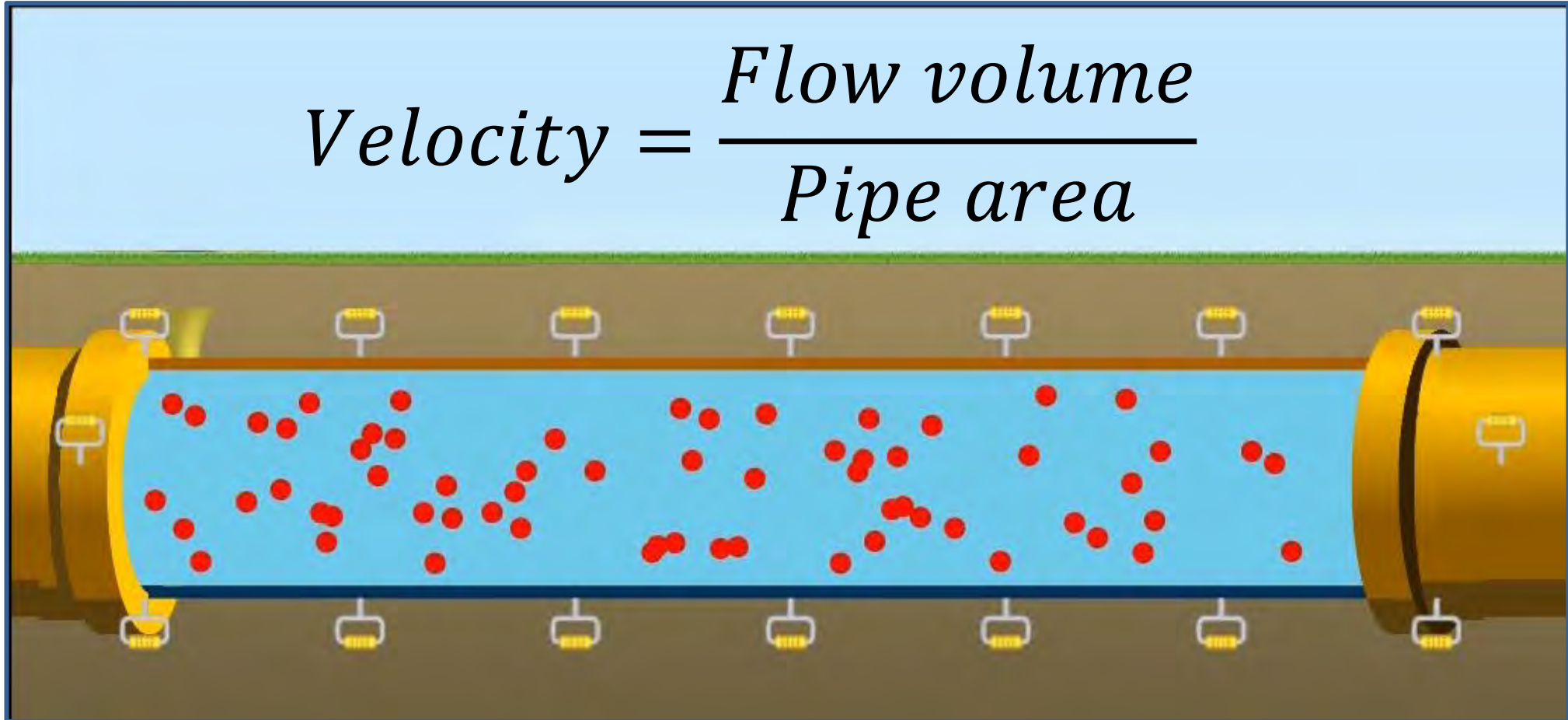


Equipment



# Increasing Diameter Decreases Velocity

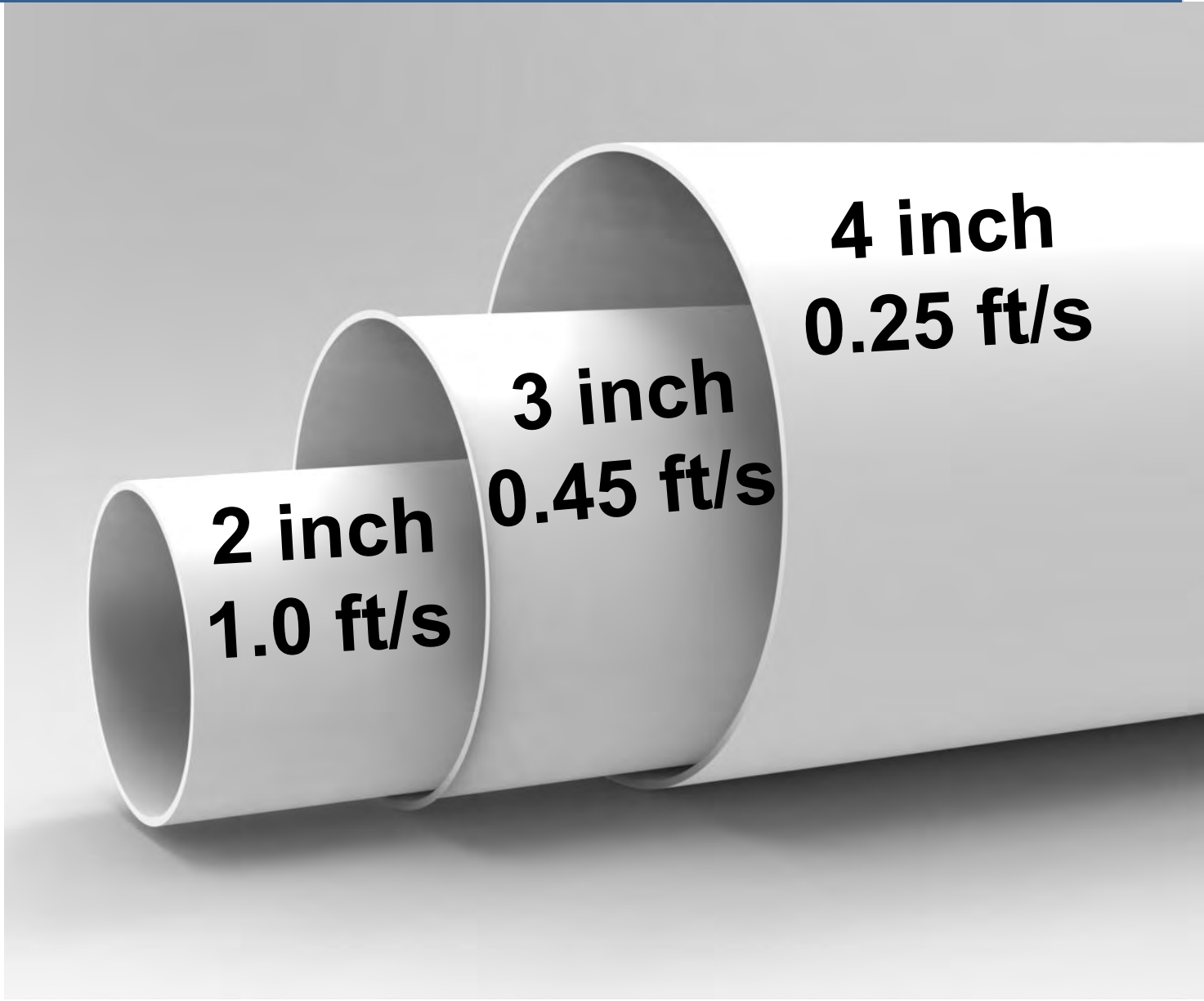
$$\text{Velocity} = \frac{\text{Flow volume}}{\text{Pipe area}}$$



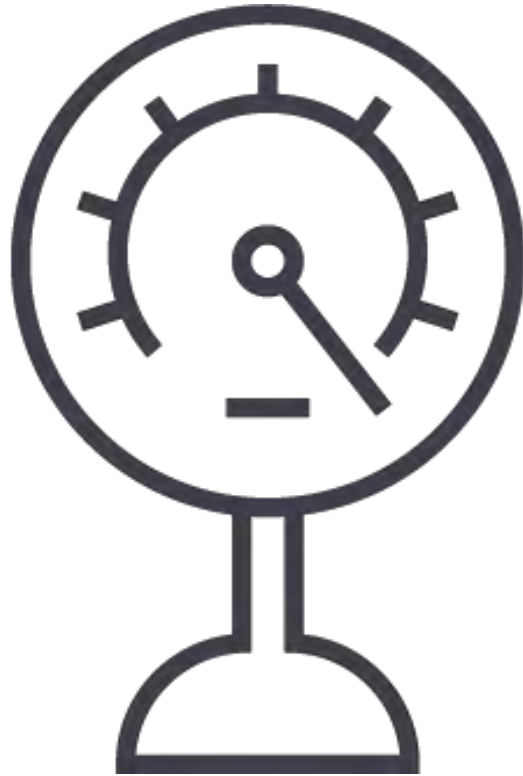
*As pipe diameter increases, velocity decreases*

# Flow Rate: $V = Q \div A$

If the flow rate is 10 gpm, how does velocity change?



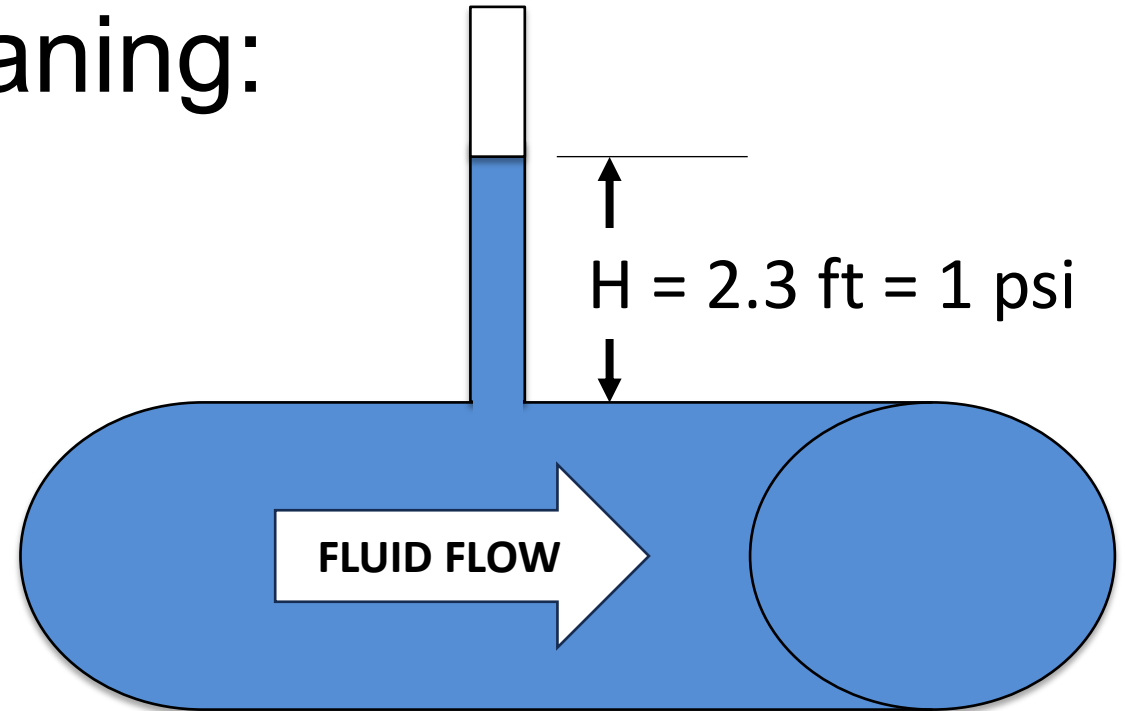
# What Happens to Water Pressure?



# Water Pressure Terms

Common terms, same meaning:

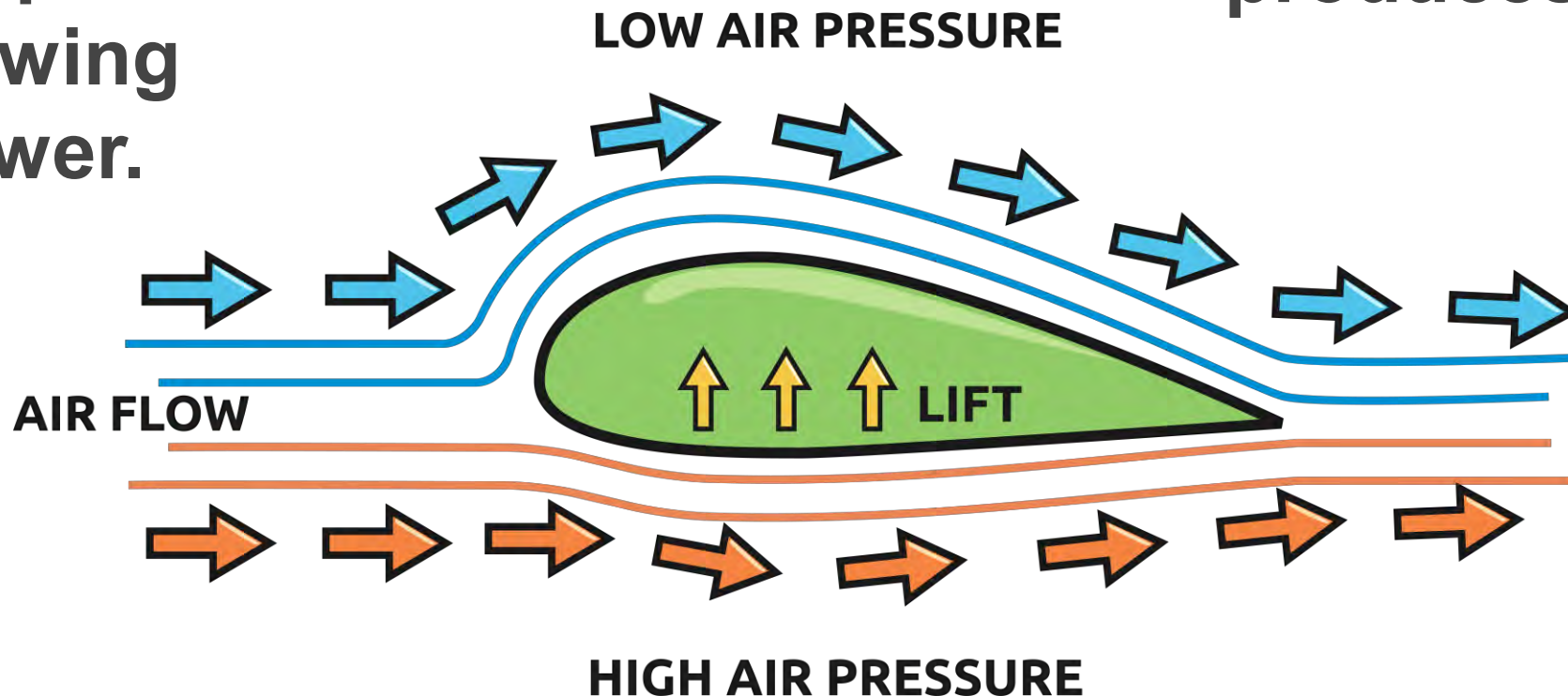
- Pressure
- Head
- Static pressure head
- Water column



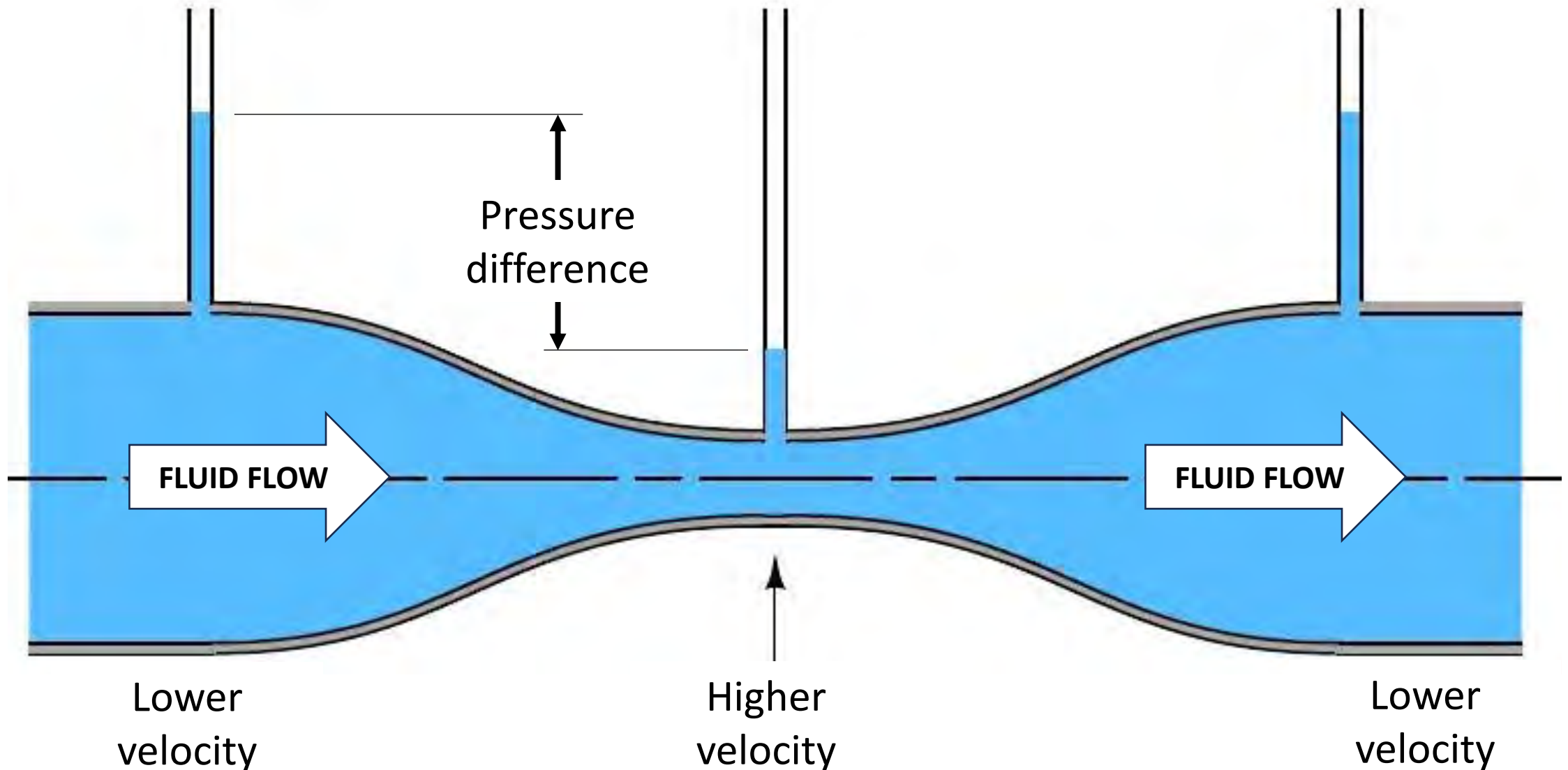
# Bernoulli Effect – How Planes Fly

An airplane wing is shaped so that air flows faster over the upper part of the wing than the lower.

This results in a pressure difference that produces lift.

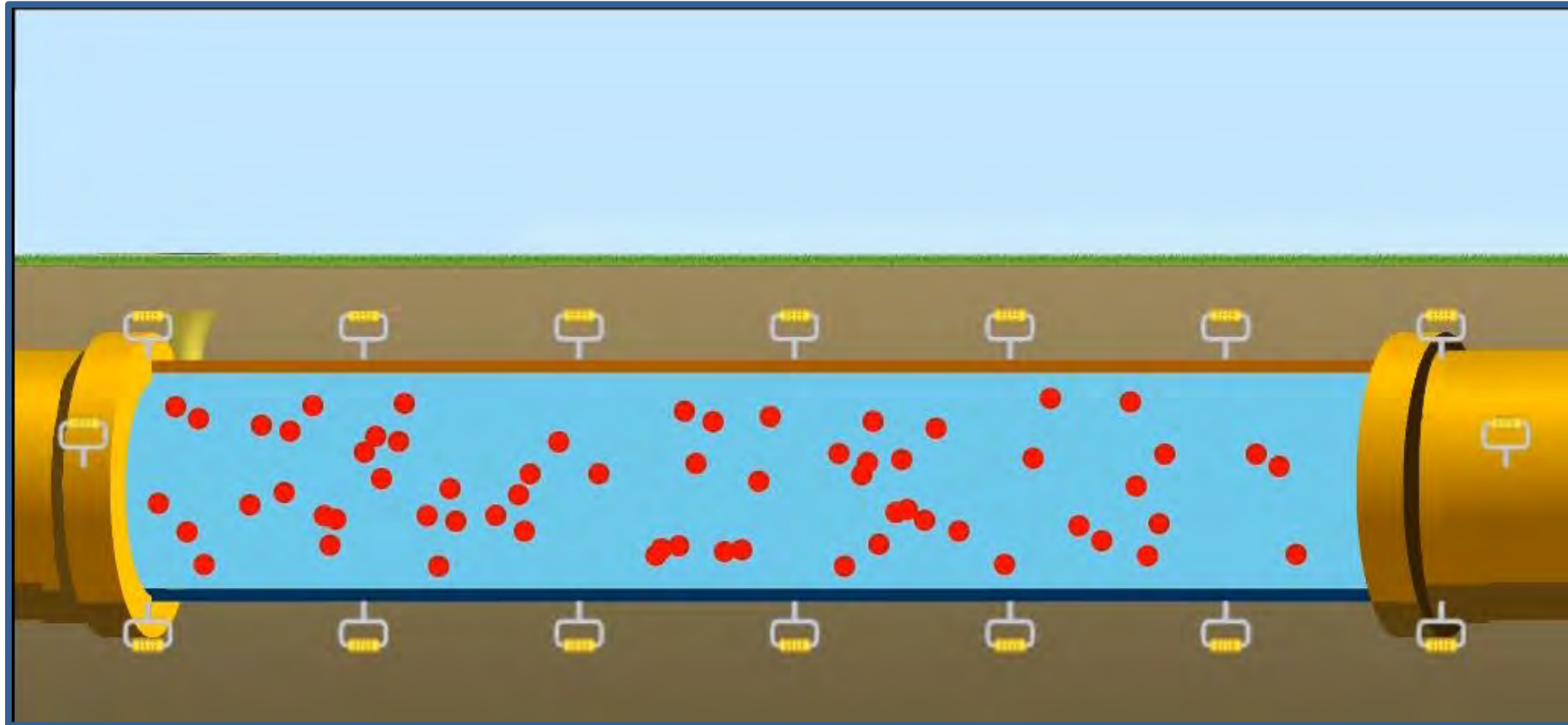


# What About Pressure in a Pipe?





# Increasing Diameter Increases Pressure



Lower  
Pressure

Higher  
Pressure

# How Does Pipe Slope Affect Flow?





100 ft of 2-inch plastic pipe

2"

2.3 ft/sec

1/8 inch per foot slope – 12.5-inch drop

22 gpm

3.3 ft/s

1/4 inch per foot slope – 25-inch drop

32 gpm

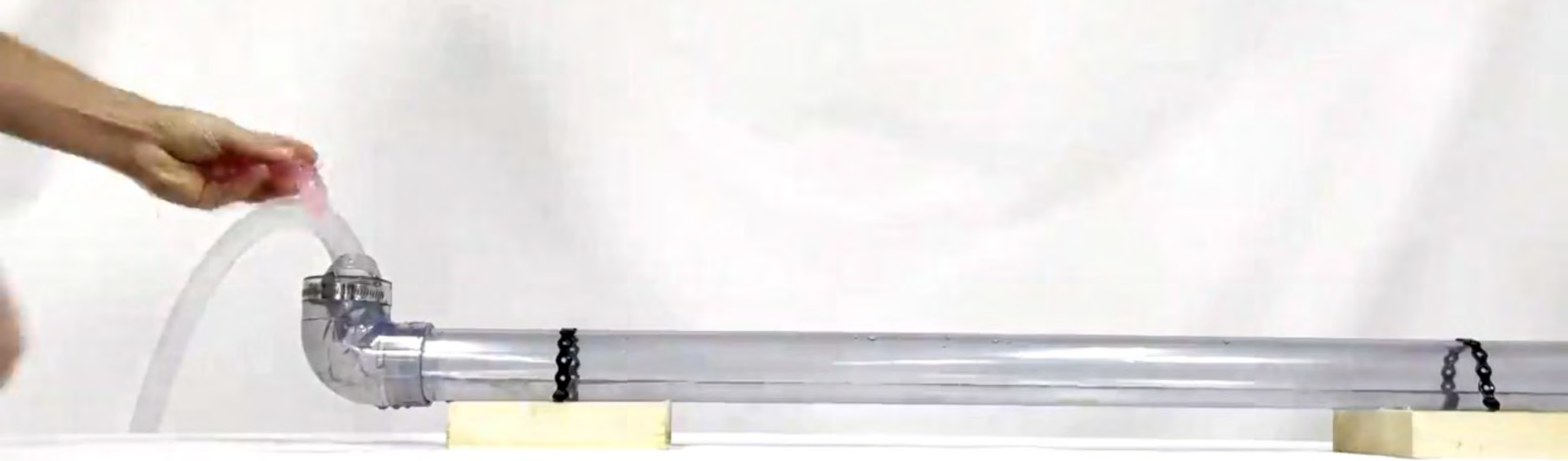
6.7 ft/sec

1 inch per foot slope – 100-inch drop

68 gpm

2-inch  
Pipe

# Reason for Minimum Cleaning Velocity



# Reason for Minimum Cleaning Velocity



# Pipe Velocity Profile – Laminar Flow

## LAMINAR FLOW



- Velocity increases from wall toward centerline
- Lowest velocity at wall, where solids accumulate

# Pipe Velocity Profile – Turbulent Flow

- Velocity more uniform across pipe diameter
- Higher velocity at wall than laminar flow

## **TURBULENT FLOW**





# Laminar to Turbulent Flow

Flow Velocity Increasing →

Dye  
Injection →



# Energy/Head Loss Types

**Major**

Caused by pipe

Frictional resistance  
between pipe and fluid

**Minor**

Caused by fittings

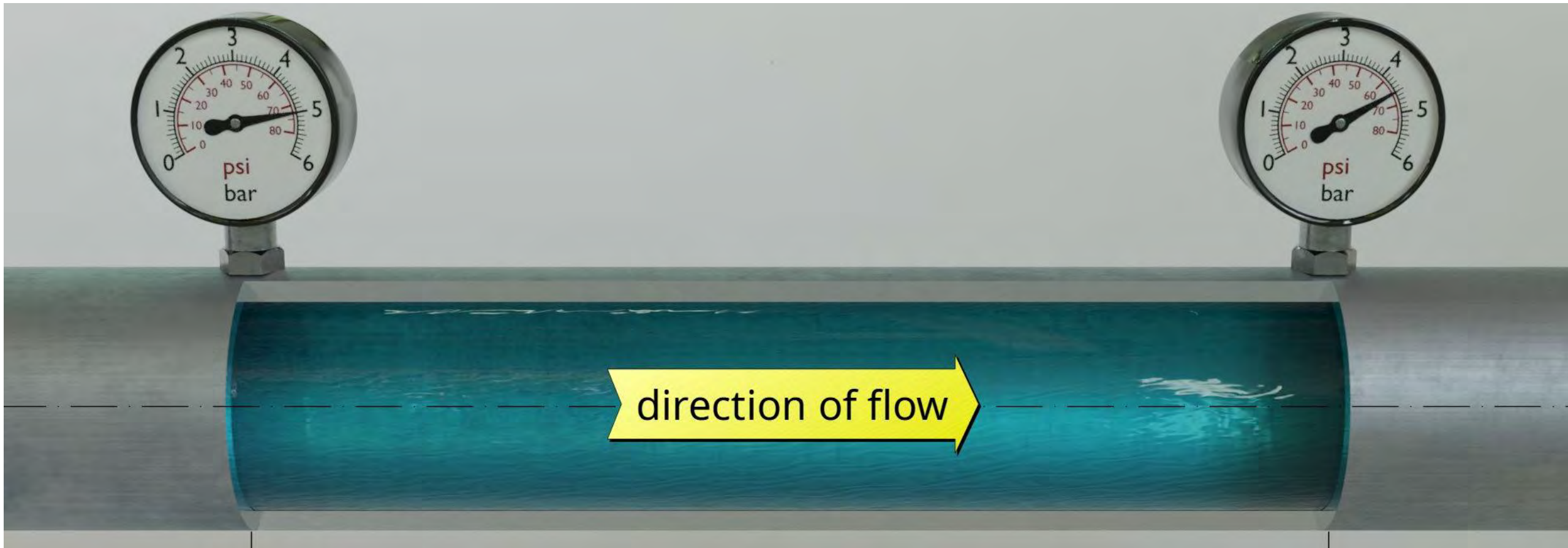
Direction change due to  
geometry or velocity change

# Major Loss – Pipe Roughness



*Rougher pipe = Greater head loss*

# Major Loss – Pipe Length



*Longer pipe = Greater head loss*

# Major Loss – Water Velocity

Flow Velocity Increasing →

Dye  
Injection →



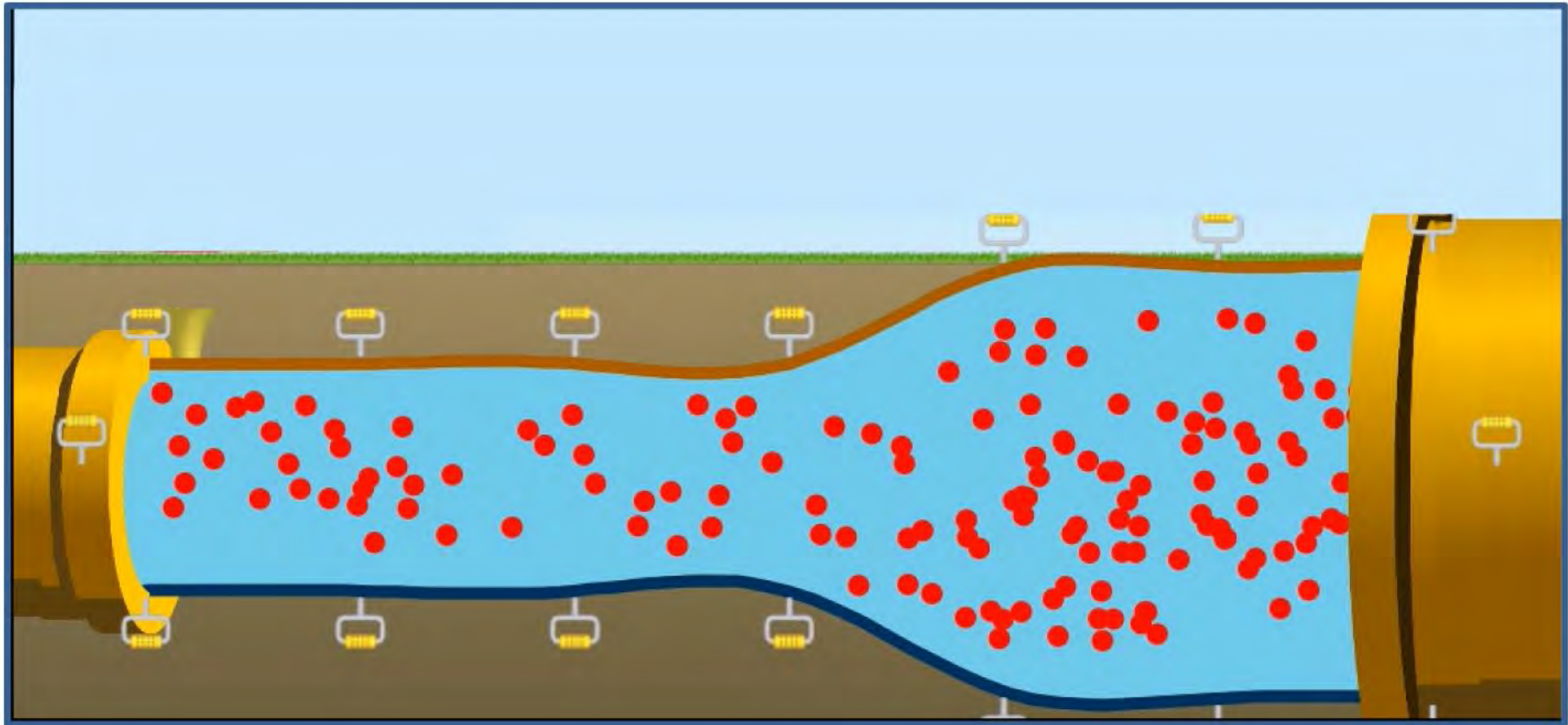
*Higher velocity = Greater head loss*

$$(4 \text{ ft/sec})^2 = 16$$

$$(8 \text{ ft/sec})^2 = 64$$

*Fourfold increase by  
doubling velocity*

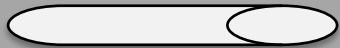
# Major Loss – Pipe Diameter



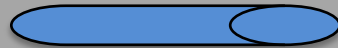
*Smaller diameter = Greater head loss*

# Major Loss – Effect of Pipe Diameter

## 1-Inch-Diameter Pipe



Water contact  
surface area  
= 37 in<sup>2</sup>/ft



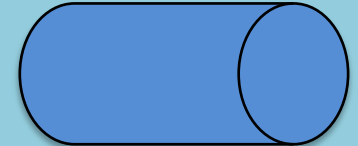
Water volume inside pipe  
= 0.041 gal/ft

$$\frac{\text{Surface area}}{\text{Water volume}} = 919 \text{ in}^2/\text{gal}$$

## 4-Inch-Diameter Pipe



Water  
contact  
surface area  
= 150 in<sup>2</sup>/ft

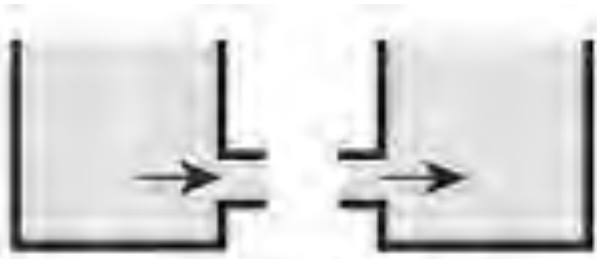


Water volume inside pipe  
= 0.65 gal/ft

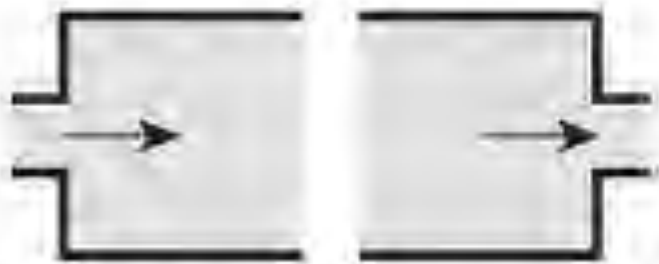
$$\frac{\text{Surface area}}{\text{Water volume}} = 231 \text{ in}^2/\text{gal}$$

*Higher pipe wall-water contact means greater head loss*

# Minor Loss Examples



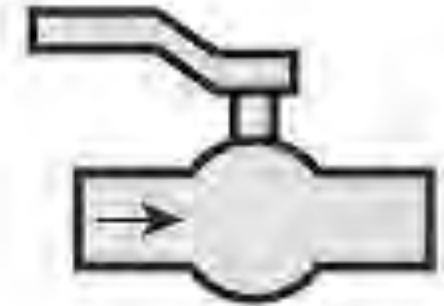
**Entrances  
and Exits**



**Sudden expansions  
and contractions**



**Gradual expansions  
and contractions**



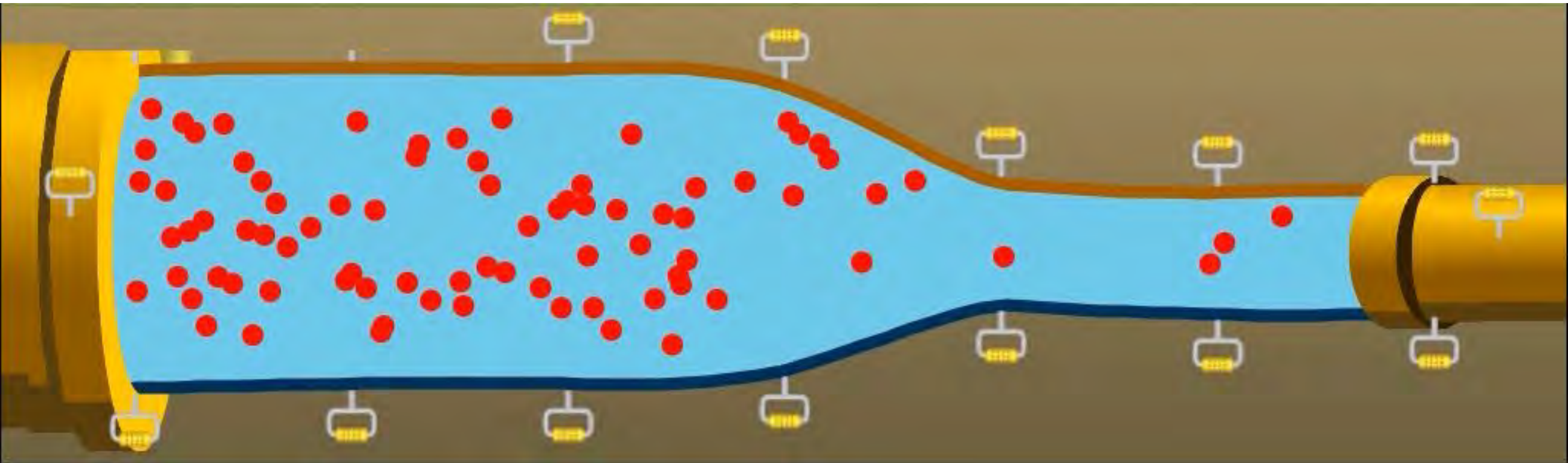
**Valves**



**Bends  
and fittings**



# Minor Loss Example



100 ft of 2-inch plastic pipe

2"

2.3 ft/sec

1/8 inch per foot slope – 12.5-inch drop

Head Loss  
0.8 ft

3.3 ft/s

1/4 inch per foot slope – 25-inch drop

Head Loss  
1.7 ft

6.7 ft/sec

1 inch per foot slope – 100-inch drop

Head Loss  
7.1 ft

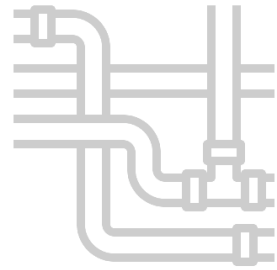
**2-inch  
Pipe**



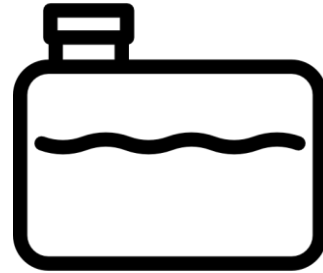


# What are we Going to Cover?

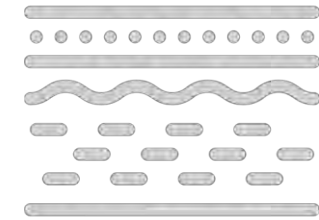
Pipes



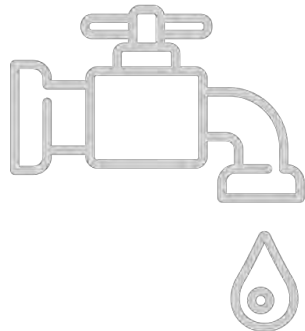
Septic Tank



Drainfield



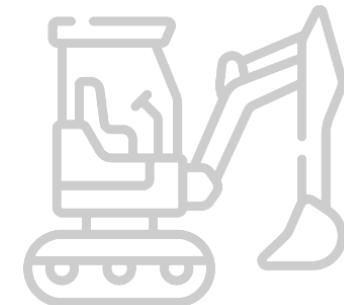
Daily Flow



Stormwater

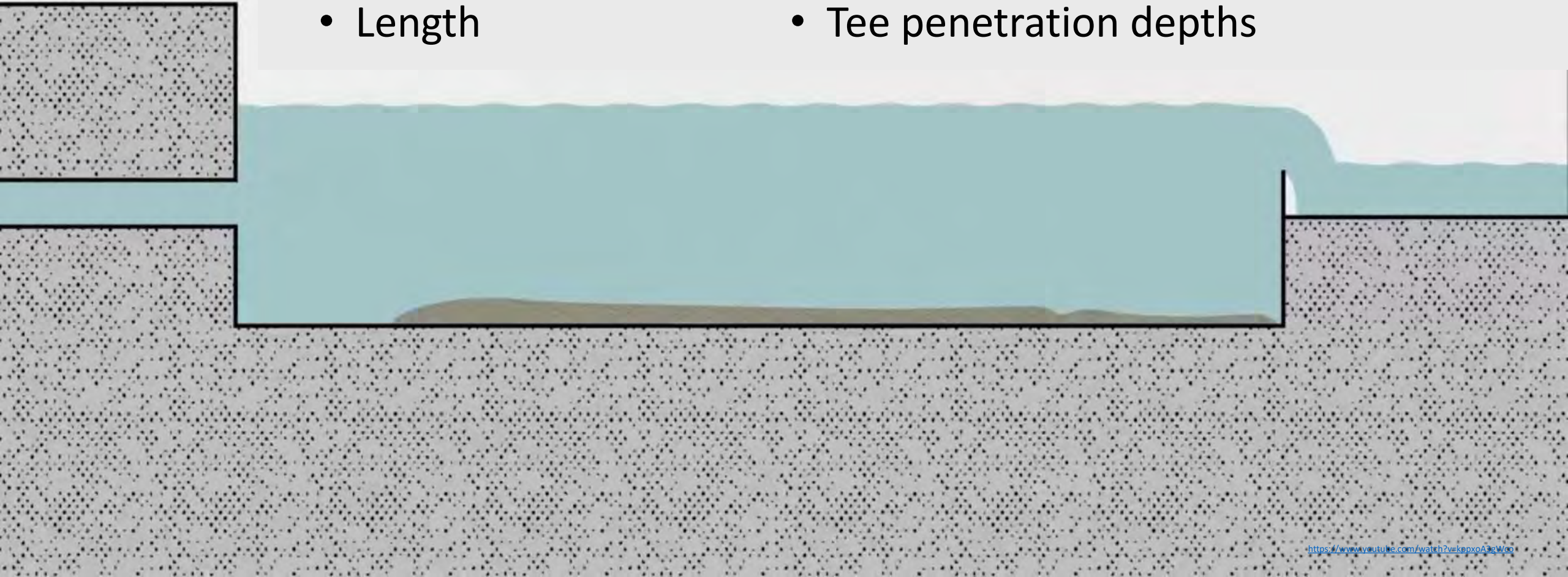


Equipment



# Common Septic Tank Design Principles

- Liquid depth
- Volume
- Length
- Length-to-width ratio
- Two compartments
- Tee penetration depths



# High Flow Reduces Residence Time

## Normal Flow

- 4 residents with average flow
- Resident flow = 280 gal/day
- Tank = 1,000 gal

$$\frac{\text{Tank volume}}{\text{Daily flow}} = 3.5 \text{ days}$$

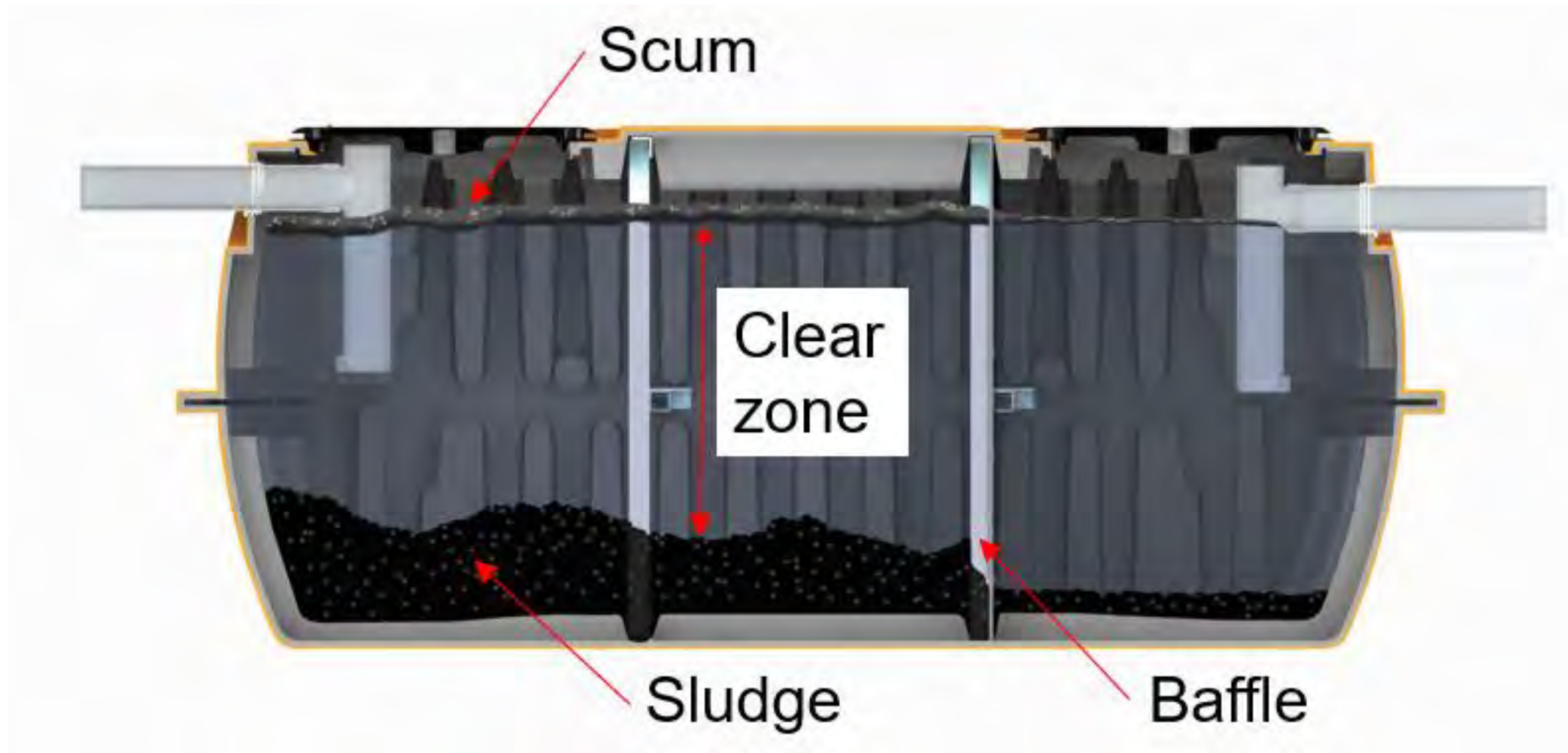
## High Flow

- 4 average residents + home daycare
- Resident flow = 280 gal/day
- Daycare flow = 280 gal/day
- Tank = 1,000 gal

$$\frac{\text{Tank volume}}{\text{Daily flow}} = 1.8 \text{ days}$$

*Effluent time in tank reduced by high flow*

# Reason to Pump Tank – Remove Solids



**Pump Every 2 to 5 Years**



# Plumbing Check



# Plumbing Check

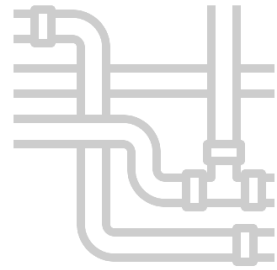




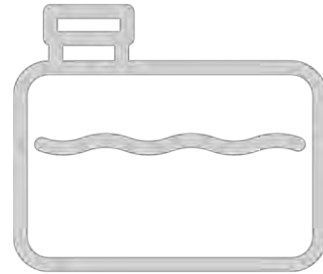
**1/8 cup/min = 4,000 gal/yr**

# What are we Going to Cover?

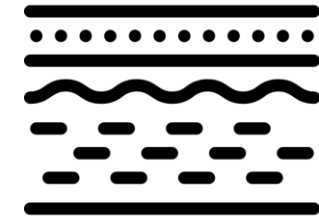
Pipes



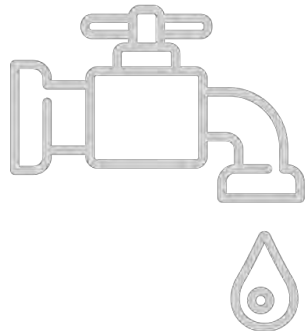
Septic Tank



Drainfield



Daily Flow



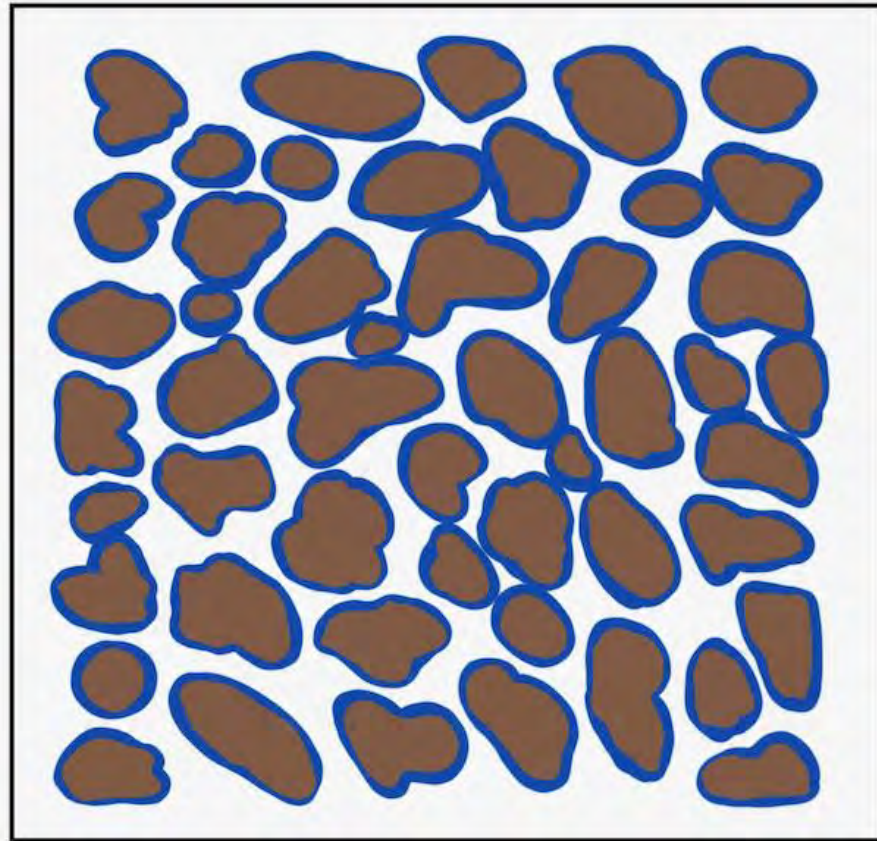
Stormwater



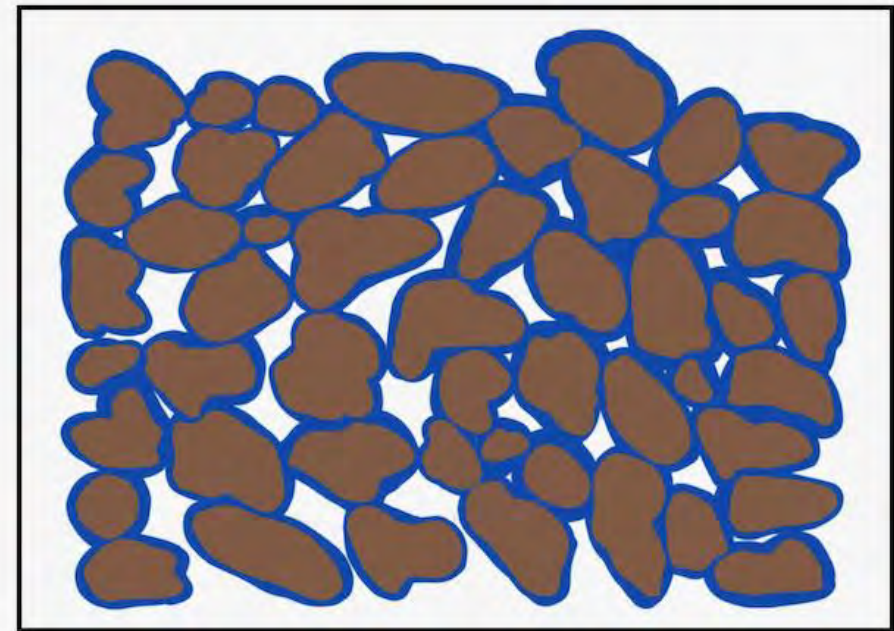
Equipment



# Soil Pore Structure



Uncompacted Soil



Compacted Soil



Soil Particles



Water



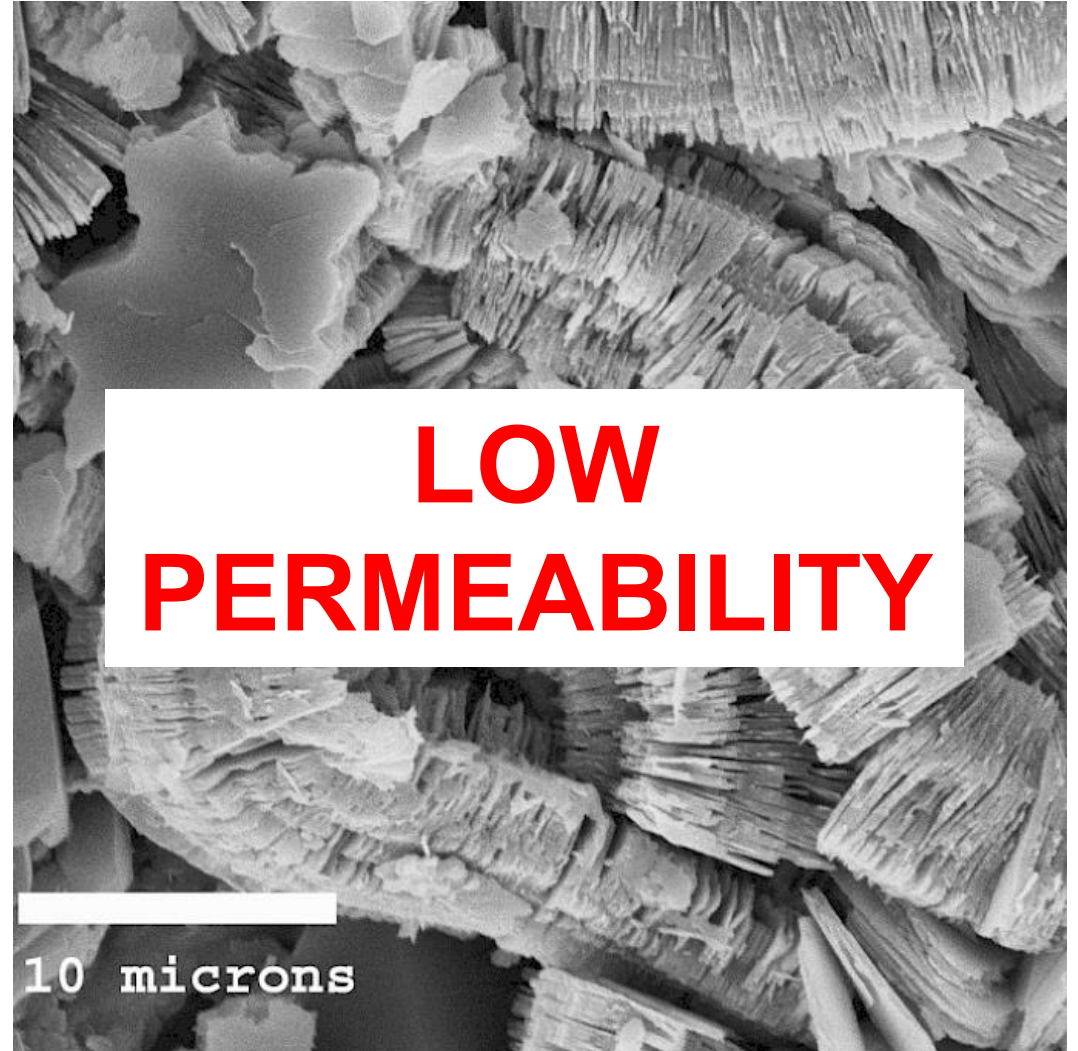
Air

# Fine Rounded Sand



**HIGH  
PERMEABILITY**

# Clay Mineral



**LOW  
PERMEABILITY**

# Subsurface Effluent Flow Modeling



# Combined Treatment and Dispersal System



gic Movement

Play

0:12:36



# Clogged Drainfield – Solids



# Clogged Drainfield – Motor Oil

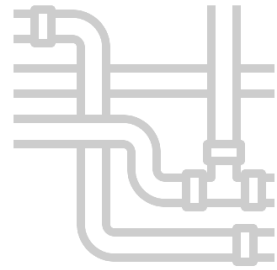


# Clogged Drainfield – Papier-Mâché

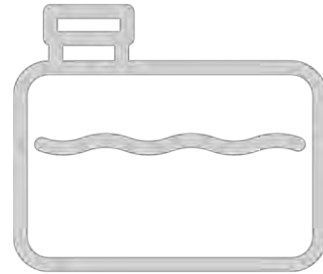


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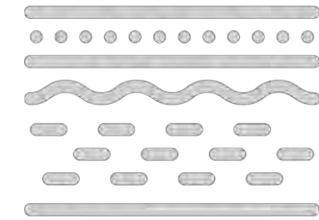
Pipes



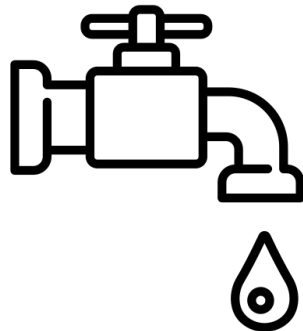
Septic Tank



Drainfield



Daily Flow



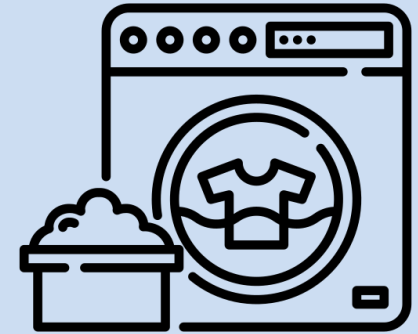
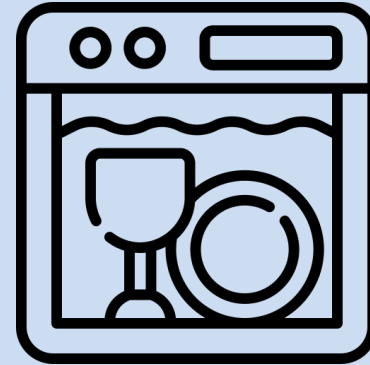
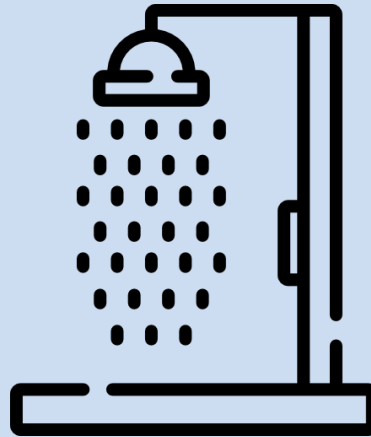
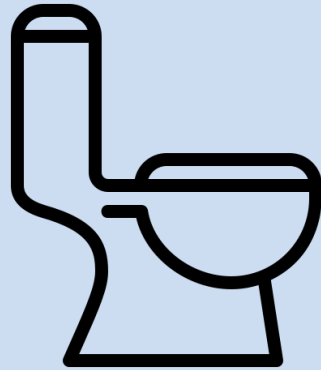
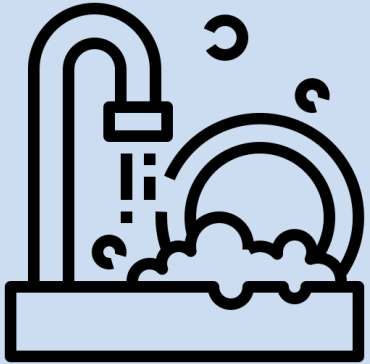
Stormwater



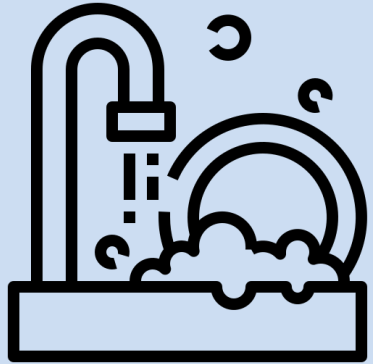
Equipment



# Primary Sources of Residential Flow

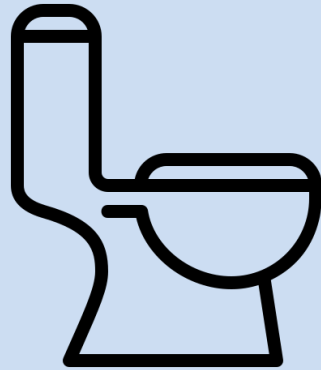


## Kitchen Sink



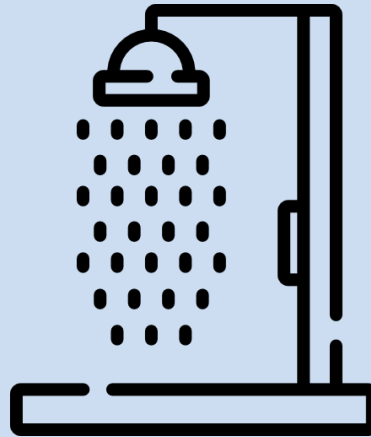
2 to 3  
gpm

## Toilet



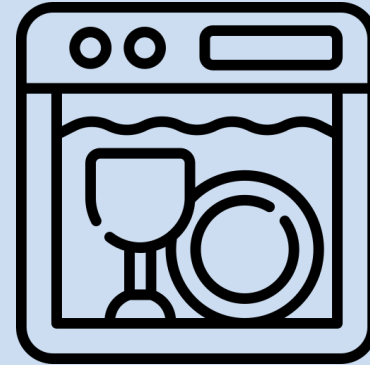
2  
gpm

## Shower



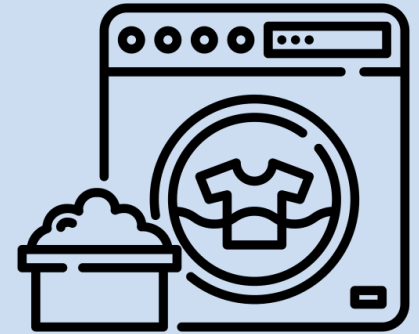
2 to 3  
gpm

## Dishwasher



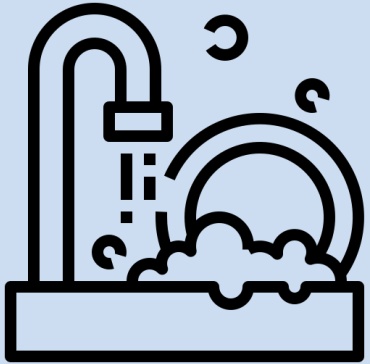
2 to 4  
gpm

## Clothes Washer

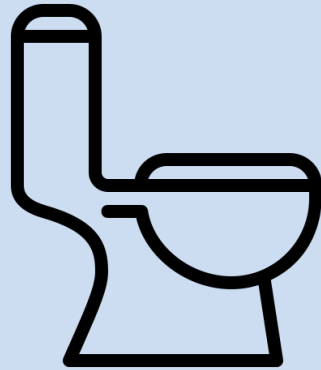


3 to 5  
gpm

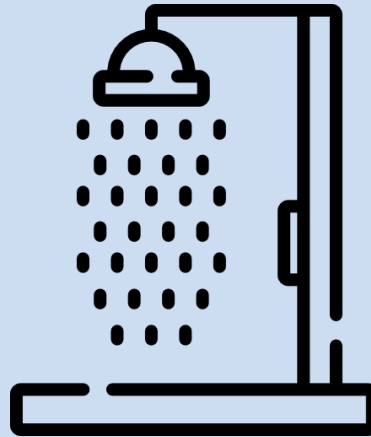
# Total Simultaneous Flow ~ 17 gpm



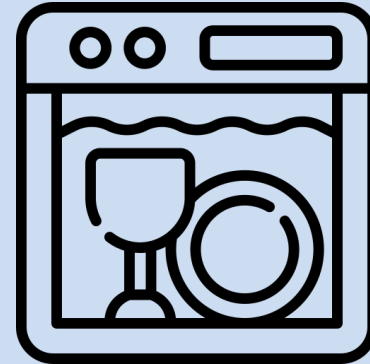
2 to 3  
gpm



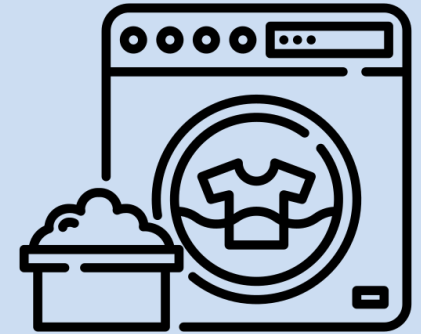
2  
gpm



2 to 3  
gpm



2 to 4  
gpm



3 to 5  
gpm

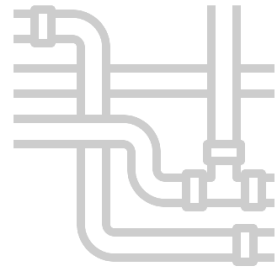


JUN 6 2007

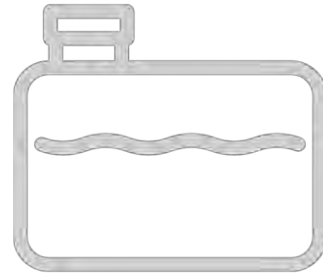


# What are we Going to Cover?

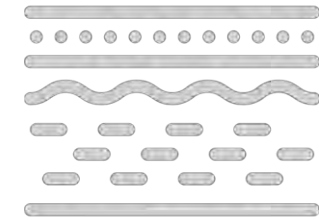
Pipes



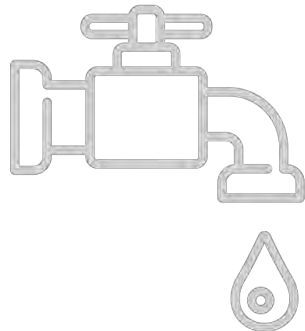
Septic Tank



Drainfield



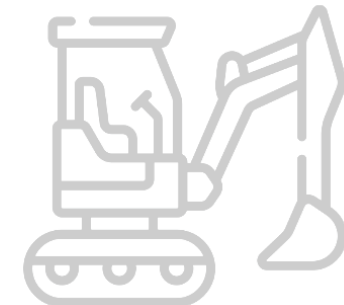
Daily Flow



Stormwater



Equipment







Gallons per acre of water produced by a 1-inch rain event:

**Raindrop Trivia**

A. 7,000

B. 17,000

C. 27,000

D. 270,000

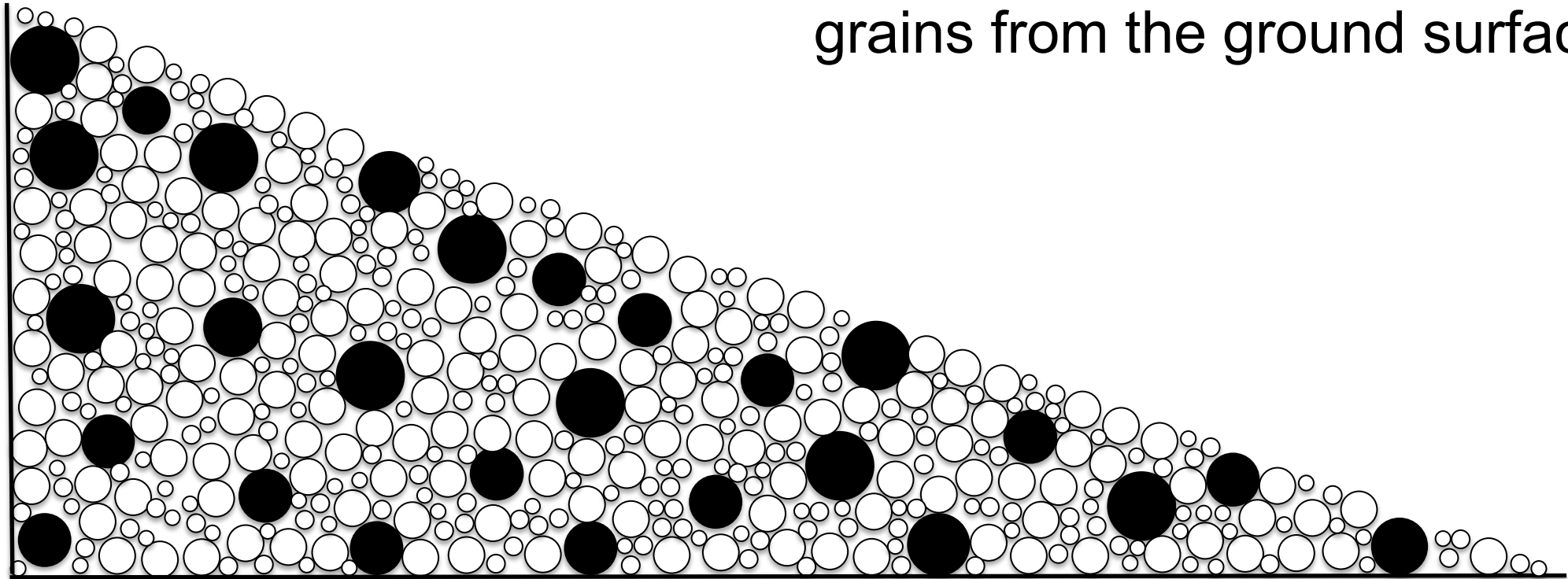
- 2 to 5 millimeters in diameter
- 20 mph impact velocity
- 18,000 drops/sf in a storm
- 784,000,000 drops/acre in a storm

# Raindrop Erosion Mechanism



## Splash Erosion

Raindrop energy detaches soil grains from the ground surface

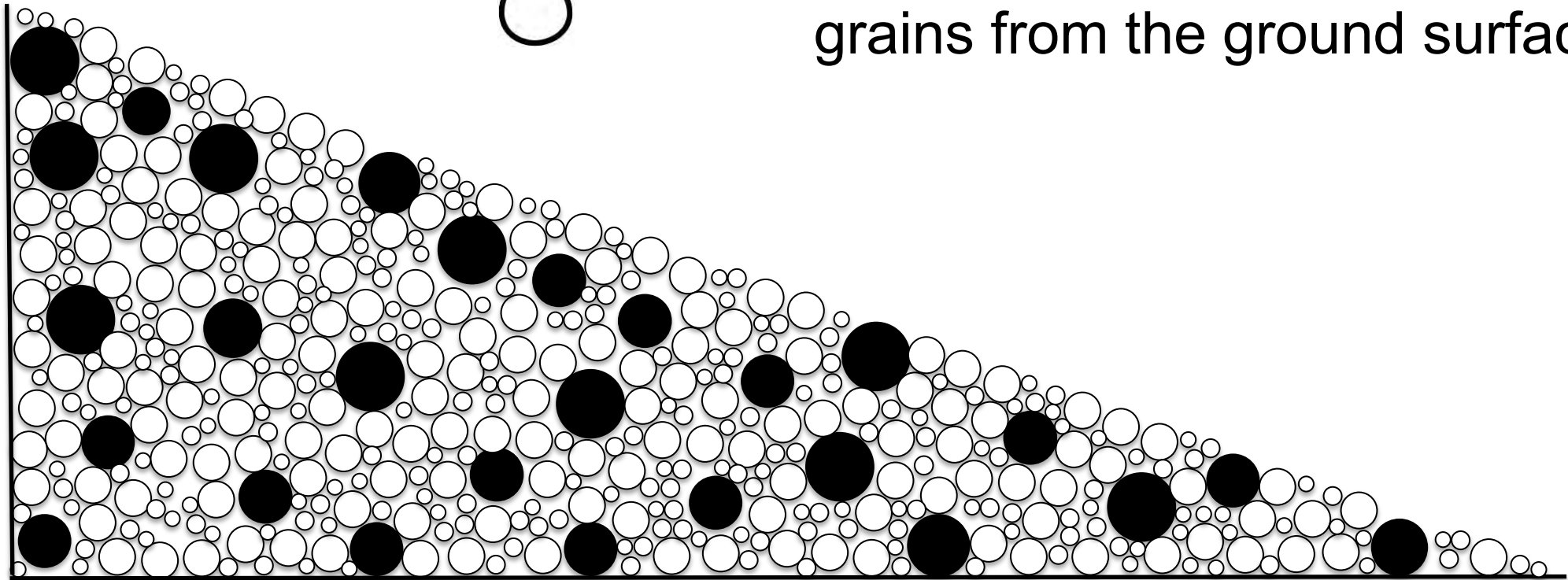


# Raindrop Erosion Mechanism

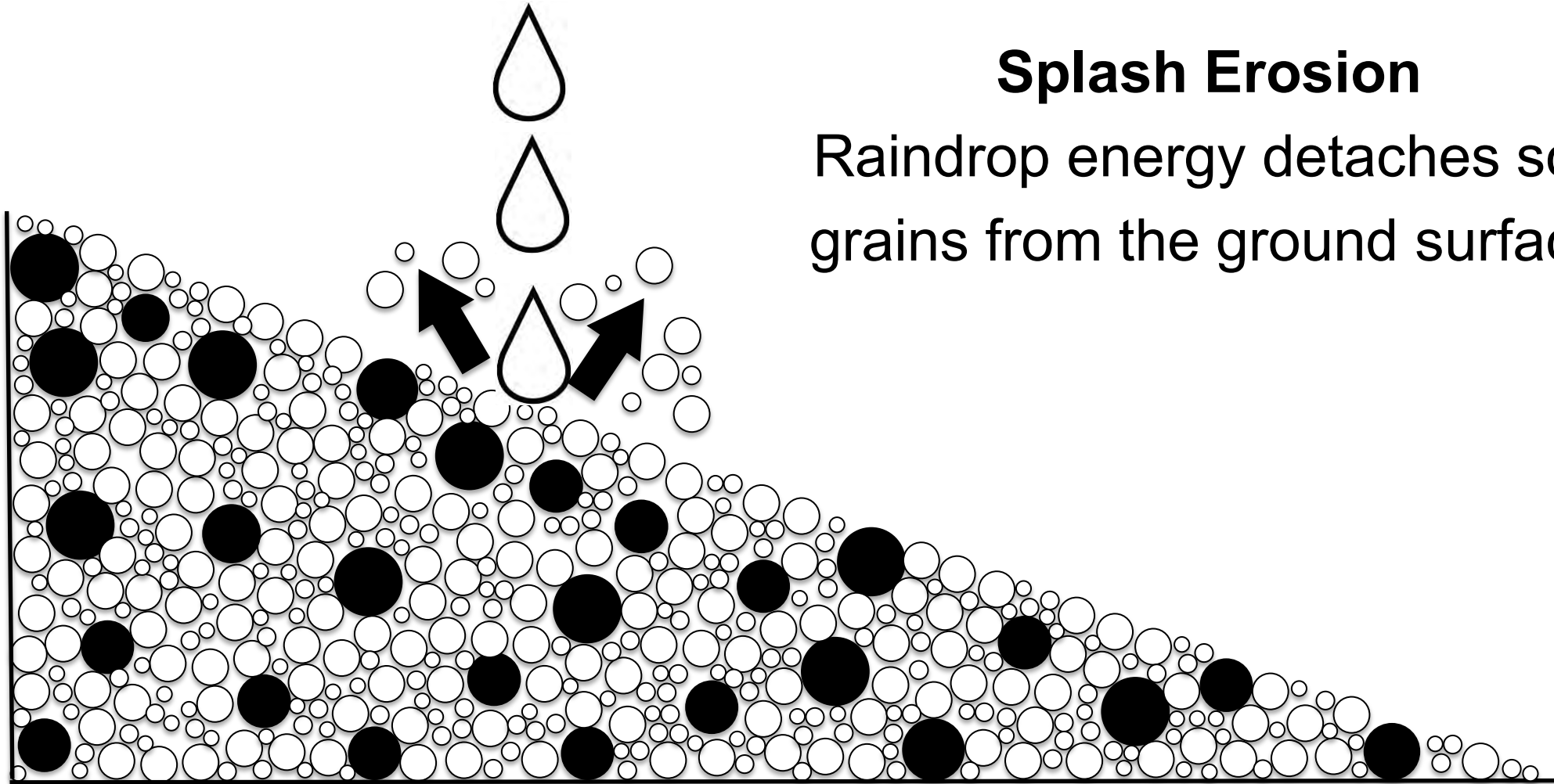


## Splash Erosion

Raindrop energy detaches soil grains from the ground surface



# Raindrop Erosion Mechanism



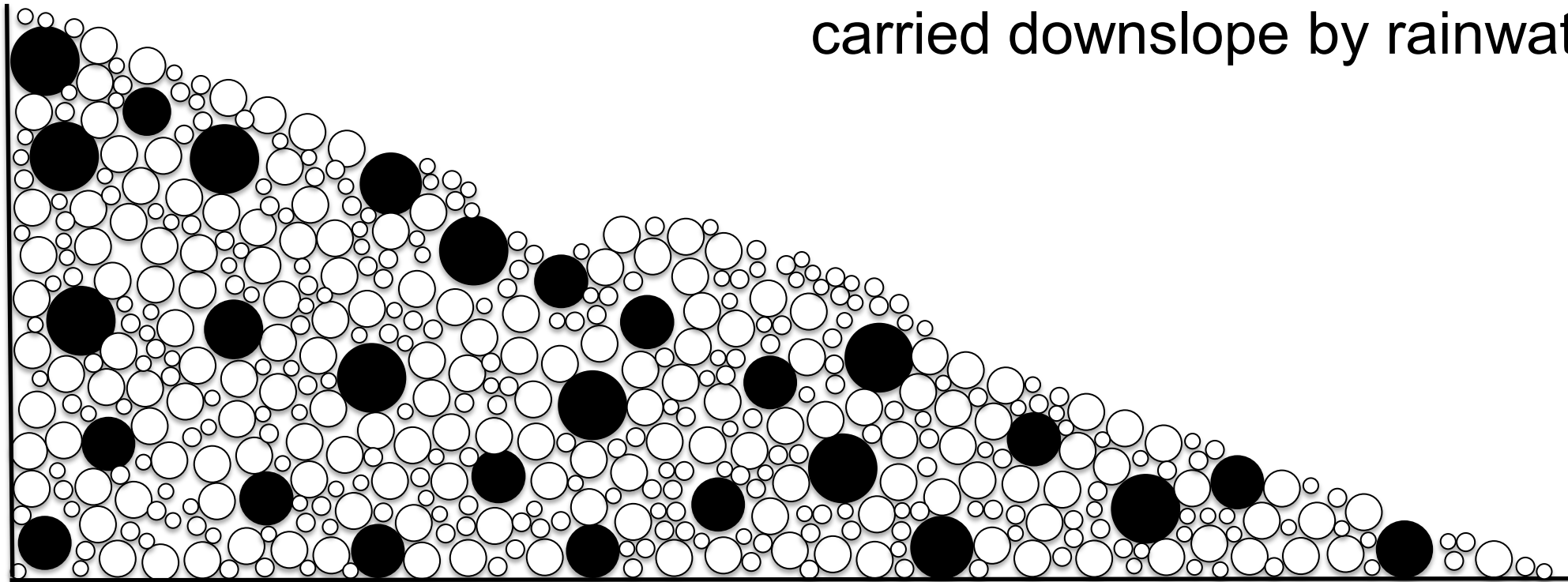
## Splash Erosion

Raindrop energy detaches soil grains from the ground surface

# Raindrop Erosion Mechanism

## Sheet Erosion

Fine-grained soil particles are carried downslope by rainwater

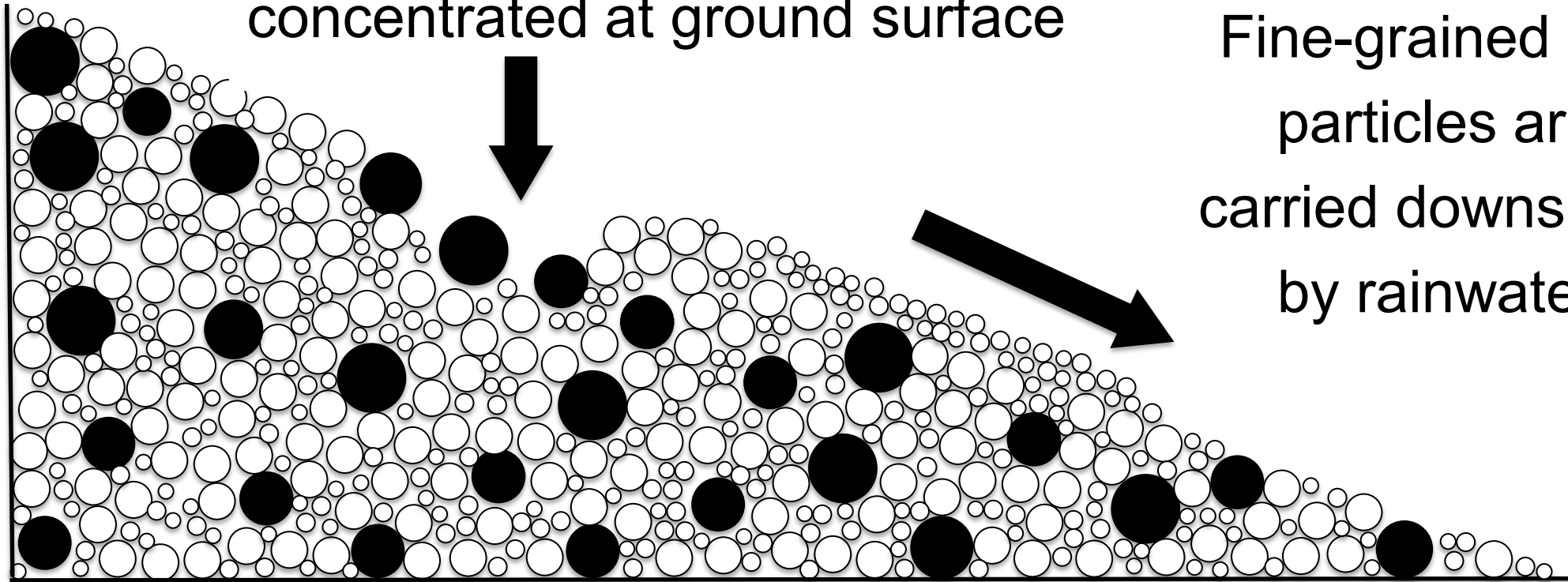




# Raindrop Erosion Mechanism

## Armor Layer Formation

Coarse soil grains  
concentrated at ground surface



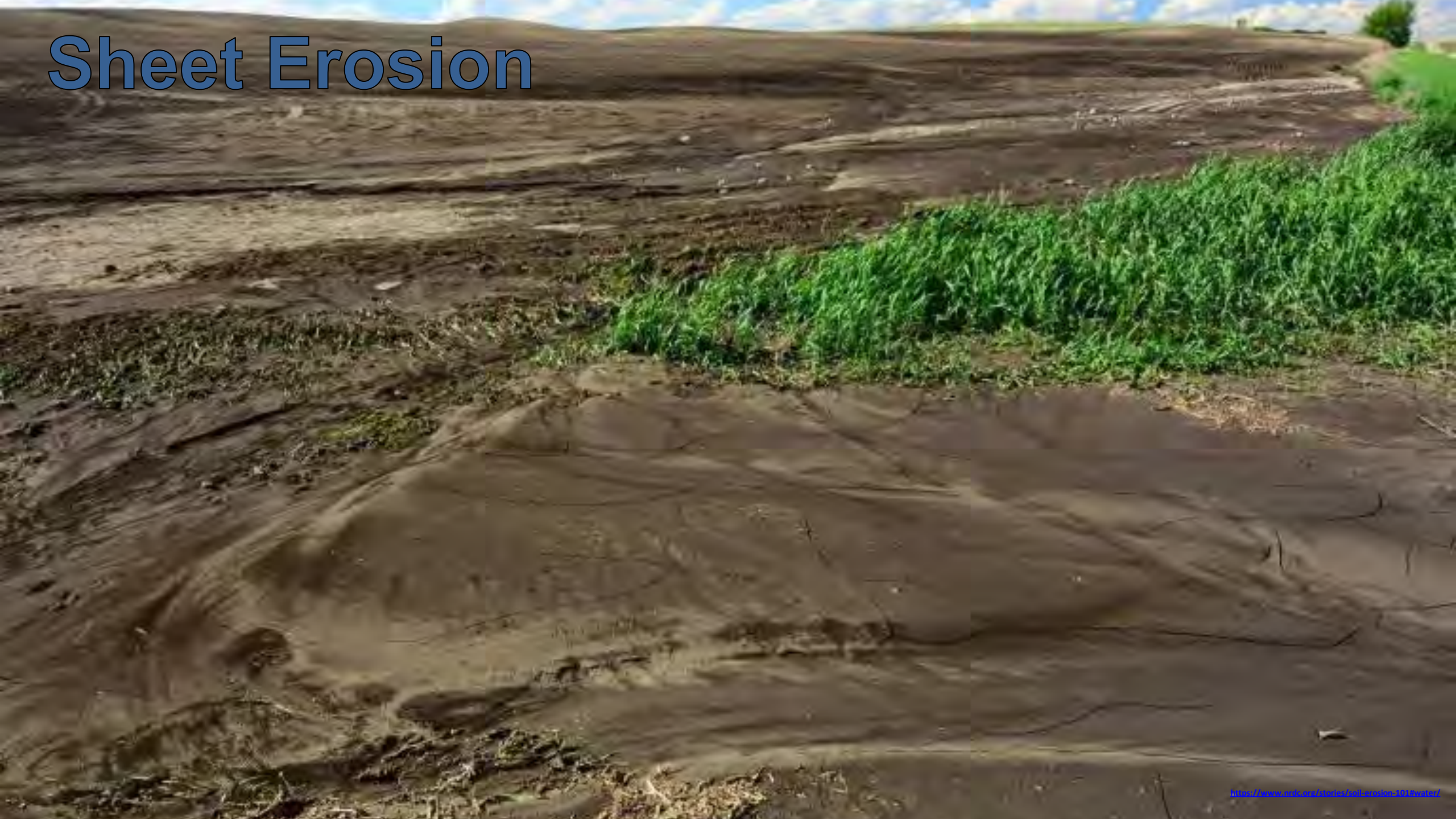
## Sheet Erosion

Fine-grained soil  
particles are  
carried downslope  
by rainwater

## Why is Soil Erosion a Concern?

- Loss of organic topsoil inhibits vegetation
- Loss of soil structure and permeability
- Loss of minimum system cover depth
- Eroded soil grains transported elsewhere

# Sheet Erosion



# Rill Erosion



# Gully Erosion



# Vegetation Inhibits Erosive Forces



## Erosion Control Best Practices

- Vegetate disturbed soil surfaces
- Mulch seeded area
- Keep slopes shallow
- Preserve natural vegetation
- Promote a deep root system







# UNIVERSAL SOIL LOSS EQUATION



R - Rainfall and Runoff



L - Slope Length



K - Soil Eradibility



P - Support Practice



C - Crop Management



S - Slope Steepness

$$A = R \times K \times L \times S \times C \times P$$

# Unstabilized – Heavy Erosion

# Seeded – Less Erosion



Soil Loss = 3.5 Triaxles Per Year!

Soil Loss = 0.75 Triaxles Per Year





# Uncontrolled Erosion – One Storm



# Erosion Control Blanket

**Coir Log**



**Filter Sock**



# Check Dams





**Retaining  
Wall**

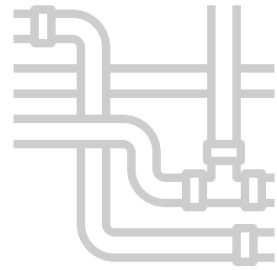


A photograph of a landscaped backyard. In the foreground, a stone-lined dry creek bed flows through a sandy area with various plants and flowers. A large, ornate metal planter sits in the middle ground. In the background, a tennis court is visible under a pergola structure. The sky is blue with some clouds.

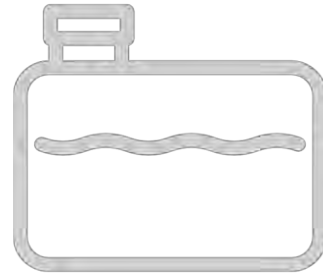
# Hardscaping

# What are we Going to Cover?

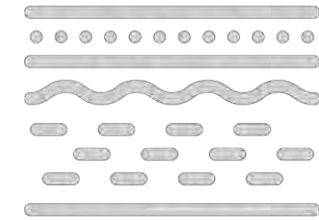
Pipes



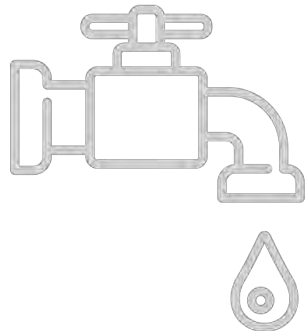
Septic Tank



Drainfield



Daily Flow

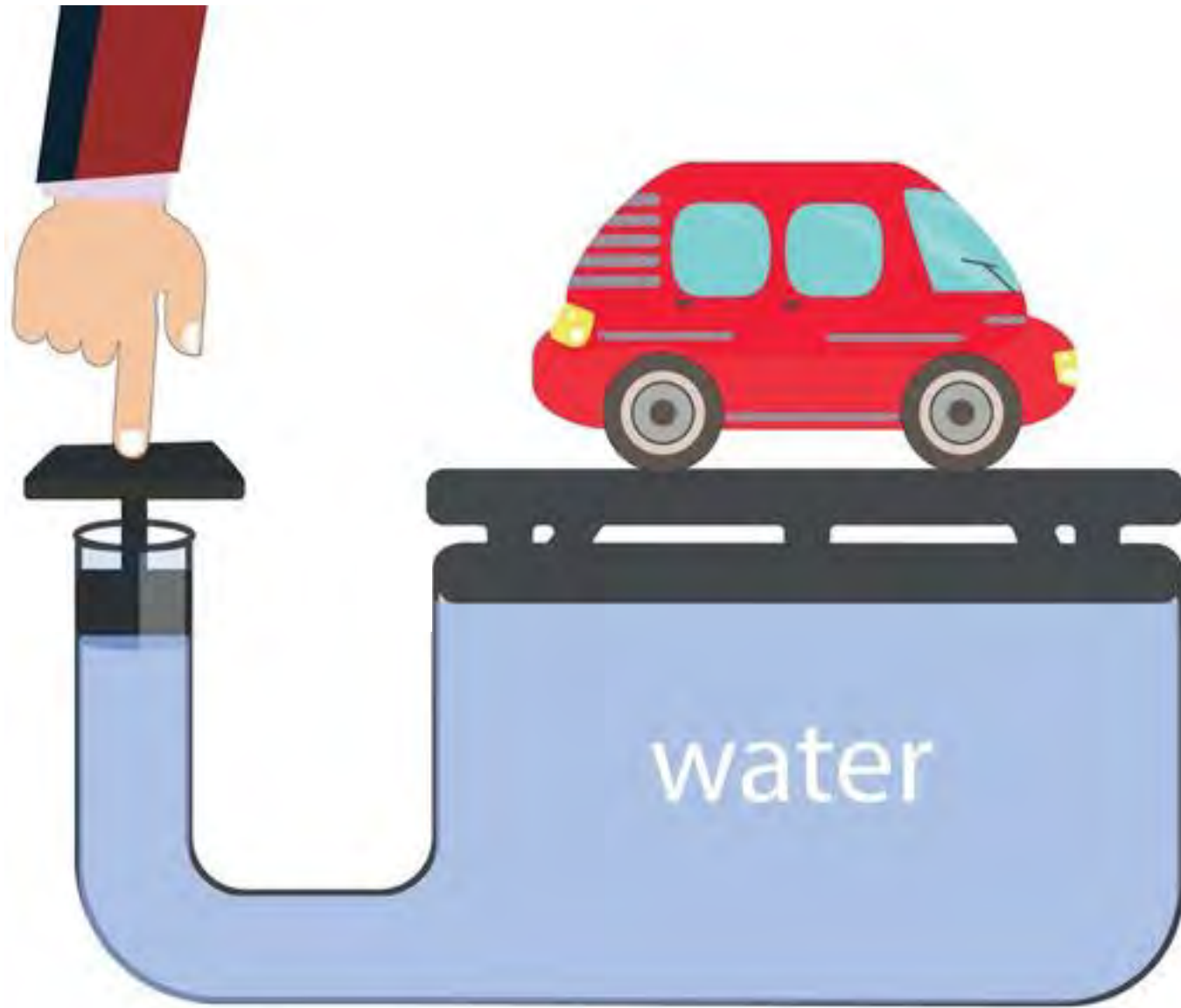


Stormwater



Equipment





# Open System Pressure Varies



# Closed System Pressure Constant

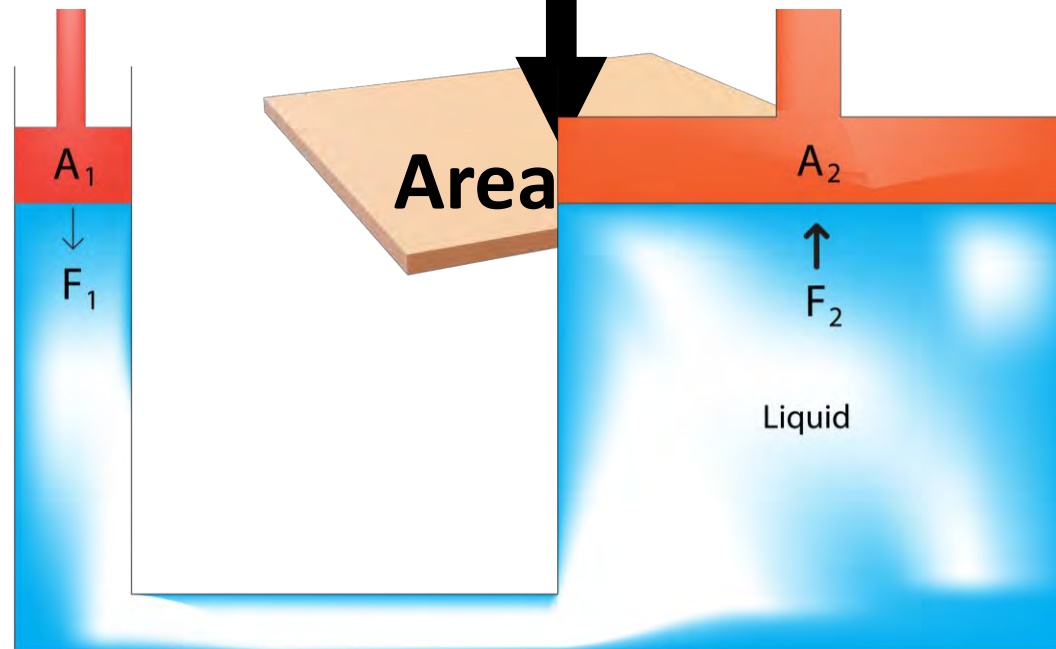
Uniform pressure exists everywhere in a closed system



# Equipment Hydraulics

$$\frac{\text{Force}}{\text{Area}} = \text{Pressure} = \frac{\text{Larger Force}}{\text{Larger Area}}$$

$$\frac{1 \text{ lb}}{1 \text{ in}^2} = 1 \text{ psi} = \frac{100 \text{ lbs}}{100 \text{ in}^2}$$



*Force multiplier is 100*

# Concepts to Take With You

- Fluid flow affects many aspects of onsite systems
- Fluid flow is affected by pipe type, size, and shape
- Fluid creating friction reduces energy and causes head loss
- Fluid changing direction reduces energy and causes head loss
- The open soil pore network keeps a drainfield functioning
- Mitigating soil erosion is about controlling precipitation energy

# Questions?



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