

Permeable Paving

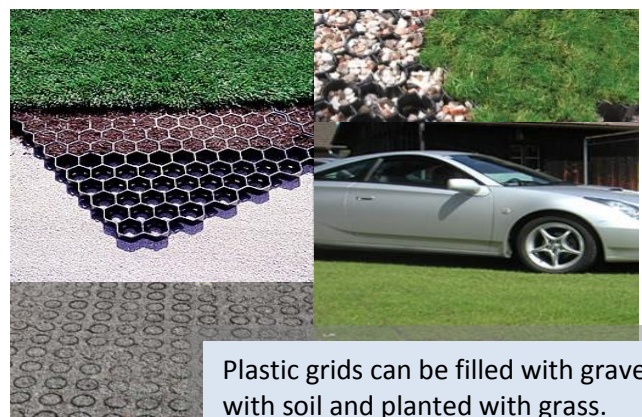
“Slow it down, spread it out, and soak it in.”



- ❖ Permeable paving materials and techniques allow water to filter into the soil rather than running off into storm drains, streams, and the Bay.
- ❖ Permeable surfaces for driveways, sidewalks, pathways, and patios have a big impact in preventing runoff on your lot, your community, and the Bay.
- ❖ Permeable paving is part of a comprehensive RainScaping plan (using rain gardens, rain barrels, grass swales, and having smaller lawns, more trees, and native plants).

Benefits of permeable paving:

- ✓ Reduces runoff, local flooding, and stream bank erosion
- ✓ Maximizes groundwater recharge and storage
- ✓ Lowers stress on storm water systems by reducing peak rainwater discharges
- ✓ Removes pollutants and reduces heat island effect and thermal loading streams
- ✓ Promotes street tree survival
- ✓ Promotes faster snow melts and reduces winter ice hazards, deicing salt use, and snow removal costs



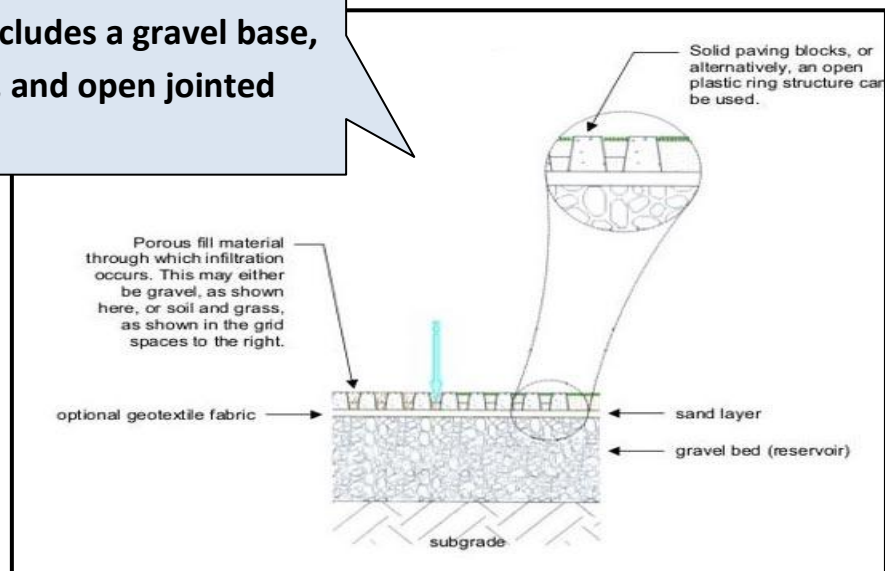
Site Requirements:

- Permeable paving is best in sandy or loamy soil where water soaks in readily. Additional gravel can be used to increase the water storage capacity in the gravel reservoir.
- Avoid disturbed soils nearby or upland that can clog the surface.
- Permeable paving is used to treat run-off from only the paved area (unlike a rain garden which collects and treats runoff from surrounding areas).

Maintenance:

- Sweep and/or vacuum surfaces to prevent clogging.
- Water grass and plant material until established.
- Snow and ice melt more quickly on permeable surfaces; use care in snow and ice removal to avoid dislodging pavers.
- Do not spread sand; it can clog the surface.

Different permeable paving materials are used for different vehicle loads and have different installation requirements. Generally, installation includes a gravel base, geo-textile barrier, sand, and open jointed pavers.



Resources on Permeable Paving

Chesapeake Ecology Center www.chesapeakeecologycenter.org/

Rainscaping.org www.rainscaping.org/

Chesapeake Stormwater Network www.chesapeakestormwater.net/

Chesapeake Bay Program www.chesapeakebay.net/stormwater.htm

North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension www.bae.ncsu.edu/stormwater/