

Pervious Pavement

Impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, collect pollutants in higher concentrations than the surrounding surfaces. These pollutants include oil and anti-freeze and are easily washed into rivers and streams by rainwater. The EPA Storm Water Phase II Final Rule provides programs and practices to regulate the concentrations of pollutants that can be found in waterways.

There are two ways to reduce the pollutant levels found in waterways. The amount of runoff to the waterways can be reduced, or the amount of pollutants in the runoff can be reduced. One method to reduce the pollutants found on surfaces such as parking lots is to use pervious (porous) pavement.



Pervious pavement reduces the ability of pollutants to build up. Pervious pavement uses the same materials as conventional concrete, but the fine aggregate material found in conventional concrete is removed. Upon curing, water is allowed to flow through the porous pavement. Since water can flow through the porous pavement pollutants cannot build-up. Instead, the pollutants move from the surface through the pervious pavement and into the soil. The soil acts as a filter, ridding the water of many harmful pollutants before the water travels to streams and rivers.



Pervious pavement requires a little maintenance. The pervious pavement must be cleared of debris that can clog the pores and reduce the ability of water to infiltrate. Soil will support pervious pavement if the soil can support a septic tank.

Pervious pavement can be used to construct low-volume pavements, residential roads and driveways, tennis courts, swimming pool decks, patios, and parking lots.

Where To Get Help for pervious pavement information

- EPA Storm Water Technology Fact Sheet Porous Pavement; (Search <https://nepis.epa.gov> site for “Storm Water Technology Fact Sheet Porous Pavement”)
- Pervious Concrete; <http://www.perviouspavement.org>