



Permeable Pavements BMP T5.15

What is permeable pavement?

Permeable pavement is a method of surfacing that allows water to drain through the pavement instead of flowing off of it.

Who can use this method?

Permeable pavement can be used for driveways and walkways where the underlying soil has the ability to infiltrate the water.

What surfacing materials qualify?

There are four main types of permeable pavement:

- Porous Asphalt Pavement – similar to regular asphalt but the fine material is reduced, allowing water to infiltrate through the pavement surface.
- Pervious Cement Concrete – similar to conventional concrete but with the fine material reduced, allowing water to infiltrate through the concrete.
- Permeable Interlocking Pavements – Solid, precast pavers installed with voids between the pavers that are filled with sand or other material that will allow the water to drain through.
- Grid Systems – Made of concrete or plastic and have voids filled with open-graded aggregate to allow infiltration through the material.

Where can't permeable pavements be used?

Permeable pavements cannot be installed in areas with more than a 5 percent slope and where the underlying infiltration rock gallery can't be installed flat. They are also unsuitable for areas where the underlying native material will not infiltrate the stormwater or the seasonal high groundwater is within 1 foot of the bottom of the infiltration gallery below the permeable pavement.

For more information on permeable pavements and their uses, please contact the Engineering Department at 360-330-7512.

