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County Executive



# Permeable Pavement Fact Sheet

## What is permeable pavement?



When rainwater falls on conventional pavement, such as concrete, it accumulates and then flows across and off of this impervious surface as stormwater runoff. Permeable pavement allows stormwater to slowly seep through (infiltrate), reaching the soil and replenishing the groundwater below the surface. A variety of permeable pavement materials are available, such as interlocking pavers, porous asphalt, pervious concrete, and manufactured grass pavers. Interlocking pavers consist of precast blocks (primarily brick or concrete) that are aligned in such a way that water is able to pass between the voids between successive blocks. Grass pavers are a type of open-cell paver made of concrete or plastic, in which the cells are filled with soil and planted with turf, as shown in the photo.



## What are the benefits to property owners and communities?

- Reduces stormwater runoff, localized flooding, and erosion.
- Replenishes groundwater and improves water quality through natural filtration processes.
- Grass pavers can improve site appearance by providing vegetation instead of pavement.
- Permeable pavement reduces the amount of land needed for stormwater management.
- May satisfy requirements for green space, allowing more development on a site.

## How can you determine if your property is suitable for permeable pavement?

Permeable paving is most appropriate for pedestrian-only areas and for very low-volume, low-speed vehicle areas such as overflow parking areas, residential driveways, alleyways, and parking stalls. To determine the suitability of areas on your property:

- Identify existing impervious surfaces or areas that intend to pave.
- Exclude surfaces that accumulate sediment and debris which would reduce the effectiveness of the system.
- Only include areas that have a slope away from the foundation of your home or other nearby structures and include only those areas with a slope of less than 5%.
- Consult a professional designer or contractor to determine that infiltration capacity of your soil; sand and loam allow rapid infiltration. Clay soils can be impermeable and require an underdrain to prevent ponding.

## Qualifying for a rebate

Project	Individual Residence or Individual Members of a Housing Cooperative	Commercial, Homeowner Associations, Condominium Associations, Civic Associations, Multi-Family Dwellings, Nonprofits, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Housing Cooperatives
Permeable Pavement	\$12 per square foot	\$12 per square foot (400 square feet minimum)

## What are the costs?

For pervious concrete or porous asphalt, construction costs may be 50% more than the conventional counterparts. Paving stone and manufactured grass paver costs vary considerably but generally cost about 20% more than traditional concrete pavers.



## Can you do this project yourself?

No. The installation of any type of permeable pavement should be completed by a qualified contractor.

**For more information, call 410-974-2941 or contact [cbtrust.org](http://cbtrust.org).**