

# HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

## WHAT IS PERMEABLE PAVEMENT?

Permeable pavement is porous and allows stormwater to soak through to the underlying stone reservoir, where it can filter down into the soil below. An underdrain may be used within the stone reservoir when soils are too compacted or do not infiltrate well. Permeable pavement can be made of porous asphalt, pervious concrete, or permeable interlocking pavers. It often replaces traditional materials in areas such as walkways, parking lots, and patios.

## WHY IS PERMEABLE PAVEMENT IMPORTANT?

Permeable pavement can:

- Help reduce street flooding.
- Improve the health of local waterways by removing pollutants and sediment from stormwater runoff.
- Recharge groundwater systems.

## Why is it important to maintain your permeable pavement?

Unmaintained permeable pavement:

- Will become clogged and may contribute to flooding.
- May require a complete replacement of permeable pavement which can be expensive.

By maintaining your permeable pavement, you are doing your part to help protect your local streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Accordingly, maintaining your permeable pavement may be required by your municipality and your local VSMP (Virginia Stormwater Management Program) Authority.



## GOOD TO DO...

### Monthly

- Remove debris such as grass clippings, sediment, trash and leaves.

### Seasonally

- Vacuum sweep the pavement once or twice a year to remove sediment and prevent clogs.
- Each winter, remove snow with a rubber-tipped shovel or plow to prevent damage to pavement. Set plow blades ½ inch to 1 inch above the pavement surface.
- Inspect structural integrity of the permeable pavement; repair or replace areas as needed.
- Inspect drain outfall. Repair or replace as needed.

### As Needed

- Inspect permeable pavement after storms to ensure proper drainage; water should not pond for more than 36 hours.

## DON'T...

- Apply sand during ice events; sand will clog permeable pavement. If needed, use the same gravel/dirt materials used between the pavers instead of sand – this helps with traction without clogging the permeable pavement.
- Use high pressure water spraying while vacuum sweeping or allow vacuum to pick up stones between pavers.
- Stockpile mulch, sand, salt, soil or yard waste on permeable pavement.
- Allow large vehicles to regularly park or drive over permeable pavement Use a broom for cleaning.



	SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	SOLUTION
TROUBLESHOOTING	Standing water	Leaf debris from nearby trees or sediment is clogging the surface.	If standing water occurs for over 36 hours, vacuum sweep to remove sediment. Ensure area draining to the permeable pavement isn't a source of extra sediment. If ponding continues, call your local VSMP authority for assistance.
	Vegetation growth	Too long since last maintenance.	If grass or weeds are growing in between pavers, manually remove vegetation and continue regular maintenance.

RECOMMENDED TIMEFRAMES FOR TYPICAL MAINTENANCE												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Debris removal	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Sweep/vacuum to remove leaves/debris	☑						☑					

### CAN I REMOVE THE PERMEABLE PAVEMENT?

If your permeable pavement was installed as a condition of development, it cannot be removed. It is best to contact your local Planning office or your local Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) to discuss options before making any changes to your permeable pavement.

### WHAT IF I NEED HELP OR HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Your municipality or local VSMP (Virginia Stormwater Management Program) Authority can answer your questions and provide additional guidance about maintaining your stormwater facility.

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