



SLOW STORE SOAK

Permeable Pavements

What are permeable pavements?

Permeable pavements offer a sustainable alternative to traditional pavements, as they allow stormwater runoff to be absorbed and filtered while still supporting the weight of cars and other equipment. Most permeable pavements use underground infrastructure such as grid paving to absorb and filter stormwater using soil or gravel.

Reducing runoff in this way is key to limiting the amount of road surface contaminants such as oil, gas and salt that's washed into waterways during heavy rain event.



Where to use permeable pavements or grid paving

- Parking lots
- Farm paths for vehicles/equipment
- Residential driveways
- Sidewalks/bike paths



Permeable pavements on your property

There are many permeable pavement options for your property depending on space, land use needs and budget.

The four major categories of permeable pavement include:

- Modular interlocking concrete blocks
- Porous asphalt
- Pervious concrete
- Plastic or concrete grid paving

By installing permeable pavement technology, runoff can be **SLOWED** by the design, **STORED** within the soil or gravel and **SOAKED** into the native soil underneath, where it can be treated and eventually returned to local water bodies.



What is grid paving?

Grid pavers are open cell-unit systems that are highly permeable. The grids come in varying designs and are either filled with gravel for an even surface or planted with soil and grass. In either case, the grid distributes the weight of vehicles and prevents the soil or gravel within the cells from becoming compacted. Without the pavers, parking vehicles on grass or gravel makes these surfaces as impermeable as traditional pavements over time.

Grid pavers are the most affordable and simple option for incorporating permeable pavements on your property.

Plastic and concrete grid pavers come in rolls or interlocking blocks and can be purchased from retailer or directly from manufacturers. Products available in Canada include:

- HEXpave Plastic Permeable Paving Grid
- GridX Permeable Paving Solutions
- Ecoraster Grid
- TrueGrid ROOT Grass Pavers



Considerations & maintenance

Subgrade preparation may be required depending on the site and manufacturer guidelines. Soil permeability, frost-heave potential, and depth to groundwater are important considerations. Gravel filler should be irregular to maintain permeability and selected to support the anticipated load weight. Stabilized shoulders can support proper function of grid pavers.

Grass pavers are maintained like a lawn with regular watering and mowing. Due to sunlight needs, grass pavers are not ideal for all-day parking. Pavers should be inspected regularly and voids should be refilled or replanted as necessary. For mechanized snow removal, rollers are needed on the plough to prevent catching.

Consult a professional for site-specific concerns. **Call before you dig:** www.on1call.com.



More resources

Follow the QR code to find more sustainable drainage resources and ideas for your property.

