

# Porous Pavement

**65-95%**

The amount of pollutants removed by porous pavement during two long-term studies.

**\$2-\$4**  
per square foot

The typical cost range for porous pavement. Higher material costs are offset by reduction in need of material for traditional drainage and stormwater management.

A Florida study demonstrated that sites using a combination of swales and porous pavement generate 80-90% less runoff than sites without these measures.

## Help Protect Your Watershed

Porous pavement acts like a sponge, absorbing and slowing down rain runoff, which can pollute rivers and lakes and add to the volume of sewer overflows. Porous pavement often resembles traditional asphalt or concrete, but is manufactured without materials that seal the pavement. Instead, it incorporates empty spaces that allow for water to be absorbed, or to pass through the pavement.

*Porous pavement* can be used in a variety of areas, but is best used in low traffic and low load-bearing areas such as parking lots, parking lanes along residential streets, driveways, sidewalks, etc. Grass paver systems can also be used in active recreational areas (i.e., ball fields) to promote drainage and provide a "softer" surface.

*Consider the following before using porous pavement:*

- Site evaluation & maintenance
- Traffic conditions
- Drainage time
- Design for stormwater runoff
- Construction
- Placement of porous pavement
- Pre-treatment of runoff

*There are four categories of porous pavement:*

1. Porous asphalt and concrete
2. Modular block systems
3. Grass pavers
4. Gravel pavers

*Not only does porous pavement have multiple applications, but it also:*

- Treats water by removing pollutants.
- Reduces runoff volume through shallow absorption.
- Reduces need for curbing and storm sewers.
- Improves road safety because of better skid resistance.



If you would like more information, please check our web site at: [www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com) or call 414-272-5100



*In cooperation with the  
2020 Facilities Plan*

