



Porous Pavement

What is porous pavement?

Porous pavement allows water to soak through to the underlying soil which helps improve water quality and minimize flooding in our local streams. There are three types of porous pavement:

1. Porous asphalt
2. Pervious concrete
3. Permeable interlocking pavers

Although porous pavement can replace many traditional asphalt and concrete surfaces, in Harford County it is most commonly found in walkways, recreational parking lots, driveways and patios.



Water draining through pervious surface



Cedar Lane Park
Interlocking Porous Pavers as part of the County Road

Basic Maintenance ...

- ✓ Inspect your porous pavement after storms to make sure that rainwater is draining through the material.
- ✓ For permeable interlocking pavers, replace/replenish the top layer of stone between joints with new clean stone after sweeping or vacuuming.
- ✓ Remove debris and trash from the porous pavement surface.
- ✓ Sweep or vacuum as needed to remove sediment.

Seasonal Maintenance ...

- ✓ Residential properties—use a vacuum or sweeper at least twice a year.
- ✓ Commercial parking lots—use a vacuum sweeper at least twice a year to remove sediment and debris.
- ✓ Remove snow with a rubber tipped shovel/plow or keep plow tip 1 inch above the surface. The remaining snow will melt and drain through the surface.

As a reminder...

- ✗ Do not stockpile mulch, sand, salt, soil, or yard waste on porous pavement.
- ✗ Do not pile snow that contains sand or salt on your porous pavement.
- ✗ Do not replace vehicle fluids or wash your car over porous pavement.
- ✗ Do not apply sealants over porous pavement or repave the area with materials that do not let water pass through.
- ✗ Do not let large vehicles regularly drive on or turnaround on porous surfaces.
- ✗ Do not apply sand for winter snow removal on porous pavement or on adjacent areas such as sidewalks, that may drain on the porous pavement.
- ✗ Do not cut grass towards pavement.
- ✗ Do not use compressed air system.
- ✗ Do not power wash; this pushes material further into pavement and can be damaging to surface if psi is too aggressive.

Who is responsible for the maintenance?

As the property owner, you are responsible for all maintenance of your porous pavement.

Can I remove the porous pavement?

No, you cannot remove these facilities if they have been required by the County. Harford County maintains a database for all required structures including porous pavement. Harford County is required to conduct an inspection every 3 years. If maintenance issues are found in need of repair, an inspection report will detail those items to be addressed within 30 days from the date of the notice.



Cedar Lane Park
Porous concrete sidewalk



Swimming pool area w/ interlocking pervious pavers

Why is it important to maintain these practices?

An unmaintained porous pavement may:

- Become clogged and not allow rainwater to drain through;
- Require complete replacement of the materials which can be very expensive.

Performing preventative maintenance regularly will prevent long term damage and reduce costs. It is recommended to remove any debris from the surface on a regular basis.

Maintaining your practice will help the environment and protect your local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.



Interlocking Pavers

Porous Asphalt

Cedar Lane Park
Porous Asphalt and Porous Interlocking Pavers
as part of the County Road

Troubleshooting

| <u>Symptom</u> | <u>Possible Cause</u> | <u>Solution</u> |
|--|---|--|
| Water ponding or flowing off permeable pavement | Leaf debris from nearby trees or sediment has clogged surface | Sweep and vacuum—make sure area draining to permeable pavement is not a source of sediment, such as exposed soil |
| Vegetation growing in the porous surface | Too long since last maintenance | Manually remove the weeds and vegetation |
| Porous surface still not draining water after vacuuming and sweeping | Surface is still clogged by sediment | Try a more powerful vacuum—if problem continues, consult with your design engineer |

Harford County can answer your questions and provide additional guidance on how to maintain your permeable surface.

Email: cjoyce@harfordcountymd.gov * Telephone: 410.638.3563
Website: www.harfordcountymd.gov/dpw/engineering/WaterResources/

