



nelson Design
associates, inc.

sustainable landscape design
residential | commercial | urban



Sustainable Advice - Permeable Pavers

SUMMARY:

Large areas of hard surfaces do not encourage natural drainage and can lead to erosion and flooding.

Permeable pavers allow stormwater to drain into the surface below naturally.

Benefits include better stormwater/ flooding management, groundwater recharge, erosion control, water filtration.

Permeable Pavers are an excellent solution for areas with a lot of hard surface area and drainage problems. In natural conditions, stormwater gets slowed down by plant materials and is absorbed into the ground. Modern spaces however tend to be dominated by hard surfaces like roads, driveways, patios, walkways and rooftops. Water drains quickly across these areas and causes unnatural erosion and pooling. Sometimes this can increase flooding to homes.

Permeable pavers have small gaps built into the joints, and instead of being filled with sand, are filled with larger stone chips. Below the pavers, there is a thick base of stone materials with lots of voids to create additional storage. Below that, the subsurface is typically graded to direct excess water towards a drain pipe. During storm events the water seeps into the gaps in the pavers and gets absorbed into the soils below. During large storms, excess water goes into the pipes and is discharged into local storm sewers or other areas on the property that can handle stormwater properly.

