

A Homeowner's Guide to Pervious Surfaces

A “pervious surface” allows rain to soak into the ground. Pervious surfaces help replenish the aquifers that supply Springfield’s drinking water. The water that soaks into the ground through pervious surfaces would normally flow over a hard surface and become stormwater runoff. This runoff collects pollutants such as motor oil, fertilizers and pesticides, pet waste, and sediment. Eventually stormwater flows into a storm drain, which leads directly to our local rivers and streams. Using pervious surfaces reduces the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants coming from your property.

Pervious Surface Options

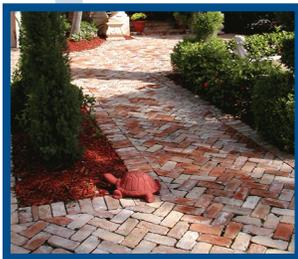
The next time you are ready to install or re-do a driveway, patio, walkway or path consider using a pervious material. There are a number of options that suit a variety of styles and budgets. Installing a pervious surface is more than just choosing the materials because rain needs to infiltrate into the soil below. We suggest you do some further research or seek guidance from a professional to ensure a successful project. Need an example? Check out the pervious path at the Brattain House (10th and “G” streets in Springfield).



Permeable pavers offer a beautiful and durable surface. However, they can make for a difficult do-it-yourself project. Consider professional installation.



Tumbled glass is generally made from recycled materials and available in a variety of colors.



Clay bricks are often available from old buildings, and other salvage sites.



Stone makes for a lovely path. Herbs can be planted between stones for a scented tour of the garden.



Crushed rock can be used for patios. Lay crushed rock properly for stormwater infiltration.



A wood chip path lends itself to a “natural” look. Be prepared for regular maintenance.



For more information on how to protect local rivers, go to springfieldstreams.org or email WaterResources@springfield-or.gov



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