



# Frequently Asked Questions about Stormwater:



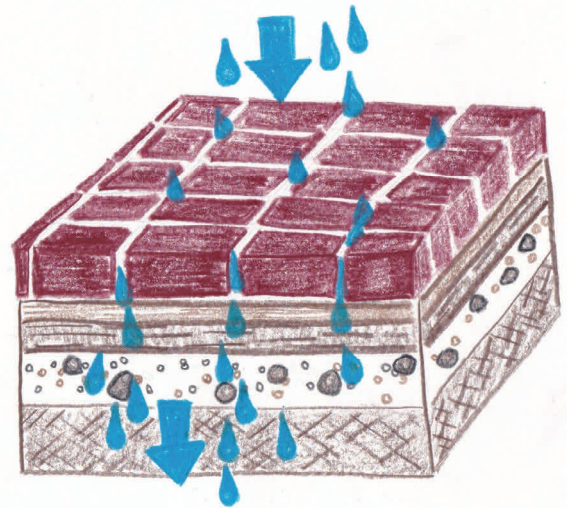
## Replacing Impermeable Surfaces FAQs

### What are impervious surfaces?

Impervious means that water cannot penetrate the surface. This forces the water to flow over top of the surface until it reaches surface waters, ditches, storm drains, or even an area where the water is allowed to pool. Examples of these surfaces are parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, roads, buildings, rooftops, and porches.

### Why does replacing the impervious surfaces help?

Replacing the impervious surfaces allow for water infiltration and less stormwater running off of properties. This reduces flooding as more water is being slowed down and absorbed. It also reduces erosion from stream banks when less stormwater enters the streams causing higher and faster flows of water. There is less pollution being picked up from the impervious surfaces and moved into surface waters.





### **Are there other ways to reduce the negative impacts of impervious surfaces on my property?**

Yes, there are many ways to do this. First look at your impervious surfaces that can't be changed and determine where the water is going.

- You can divert roof gutters onto vegetation instead of into pipes or paved surfaces. This allows for the rain to be absorbed.
- Wash your car on the lawn, instead of in the driveway. Or go to a car wash that recycles its wastewater.
- Plant native trees, shrubs, and other plants to promote infiltration of the water.
- Create a buffer between impervious surfaces and surface waters like ponds, streams, or wetlands using native plants.
- Install gravel trenches along impervious surfaces like porches and driveways to collect and filter stormwater.
- If you are replacing sidewalk, use bricks or interlocking pavers to allow for infiltration in the joints.

### **Can permeable pavers meet the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements?**

Yes! These guidelines require that the surfaces are firm, stable, and slip resistant. There are a variety of types of permeable pavers and various configurations they can be used in to accommodate everyone.

### **Can I use permeable pavers in freezing climates?**

Yes, there have been many uses of permeable pavers across the northern U.S. and Canada. Not all permeable pavers are created equal and It is import to ensure that they have been tested for freeze thaw durability.

### **References**

<https://www.yorktownny.org/engineeringandsewer/faqs-imperviousness>