Permeable Pavers

This Advanced Method and Material was developed jointly by the City of Bellingham Public Works Department and Sustainable Connections to increase stormwater infiltration by providing means for the installation of pavers.

**Benefits**

Paver systems can provide a structural surface capable of supporting traffic loads that allows for water drainage through the section into the subgrade below. Additional benefits include:

- Decreased runoff to adjacent areas
- Faster surface dry time
- Faster melt-off of snow
- Multiple styles and finishes
- Can be installed by homeowner
- Simple transport and installation
- Contribute LEED® points for your project

**Scope**

Driveways, patios and pathways on both private property or in the City right-of-way.

**Definitions**

Paver: a stone/mortar unit that provides structural support over existing/imported subgrade. Generally placed together to achieve larger desired surface areas. Gaps between units provide for infiltration of stormwater runoff into subgrade.

Drainage Bed: a crushed rock layer underneath the paver system that provides structural support and stormwater storage.

**Permit Requirements**

City of Bellingham Building Permit

City of Bellingham Stormwater Permit (if over 500 sf of land disturbing activities).

Contact COB Permit Center for more information: (360) 778-8300 or permits@cob.org.

**Policy/Conditions**

Pavers may be installed when the following conditions are met:

- The site subgrade has been reviewed by a suitably qualified professional and an infiltration rate determined if applicable.
- A stormwater site plan has been reviewed and approved for the site if applicable.
- Installations on grades greater than 5% need to be specifically engineered.
- Drain rock shall meet the current City or WSDOT standards.

**Compliance with these Standards**

- ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 (when used in places of public accommodation, employment, education or any other places open to the general public)
Permeable Pavers

REFERENCES / SOURCES

SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE
• Sweep large debris (leaves, sticks etc) off weekly
• Immediately place absorbent material on spills. Vacuum material off
• Remove any vegetation that forms anywhere on the surface

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES
City of Bellingham
Use of pavers will help to meet criteria that could qualify a project for a 50% reduction in the stormwater development charges. See Bellingham Municipal Code 15.16.030 or contact City staff for details and criteria about the reduced stormwater development charges.

Additionally, pavers can also be incorporated into a project to help avoid the triggering of the 0.1 cfs increase in flow for the 100-year storm threshold to require stormwater detention or to reduce the required size of stormwater mitigation facilities by using allowed stormwater modeling credits. Credits can be found in Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington published in 2005 or the Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Paver Search
Provides a series of links to access a variety of useful information addressing the issues relevant to Permeable Pavers.
www.paversearch.com/permeable-pavers-menu.htm

Puget Sound Partnership
The Puget Sound Partnership is a community effort of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists and businesses working together to restore and protect Puget Sound.
www.psp.wa.gov

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) is a community–based nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring sustainable wild salmon runs in Whatcom County.
www.n-sea.org

For more information please contact the City of Bellingham Building Development:(360) 778-8300 or planning@cob.org