



# PERVIOUS PAVERS



## Pervious Pavers Defined

Pervious pavers permit water to seep around and through their paved surface, and soak naturally into the ground underneath. In short, pervious pavers are a self-draining system.

Aesthetically pleasing pervious pavers are commonly used for patios, walkways, driveways and landscaping. Pervious pavers also come with a life long guarantee in materials and labor cost.

**Replace impervious surfaces with pervious pavers, and have \$1200 of the cost difference covered.**  
**All RiverSmart Homes practices  
require co-payments for landscaping that reduces  
stormwater runoff to help the District's streams and rivers.**

## Stormwater Runoff and the District of Columbia

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, roads, sidewalks and sometimes even lawns. Stormwater runoff travels from these surfaces to our streams, picking up pollutants such as oil and grease from our roadways and driveways as it goes. Nutrients from lawn fertilizers and bacteria from pet waste may also be picked up by stormwater and carried to our streams.



**RiverSmart Homes**

*clean water starts here*



## Benefits of Pervious Pavers

### To the Homeowner....

Pervious pavers are more aesthetically pleasing than conventional pavement and provide many advantages for the homeowner.

Pervious pavers:

- Come in more colors and shapes than traditional concrete or asphalt
- Can create a longer-lasting surface compared with conventional concrete
- Reduce basement flooding caused by rain storms that overload sewers
- Increase natural irrigation of your yard, reducing water use and cost

### To the District...

The District is promoting the installation of pervious pavers because they improve the health of local streams and waterways by producing substantially less stormwater runoff than conventional pavements. In addition, pervious pavers:

- Reduce installation/construction costs of drainage systems (i.e. they eliminate the cost of piping stormwater to an outfall)
- Promote groundwater recharge, increasing both the quantity and quality of water
- Reduce flooding and erosion caused by flooding
- Promote tree survival by providing air and water to their roots



## How to Have Pervious Pavers

Pervious pavers may have a higher cost in the initial stage of installation, but you will find that in the long run, the cost will be less than conventional paving.

Pervious pavers come in a variety of types including grass pavers, gravel pavers, interlocking concrete pavers and porous concrete. The type you install is dependent upon site specifics and usage.

To be eligible for the pervious paver subsidy, you must be replacing or removing an existing impervious surface (concrete, asphalt, etc.) like a driveway or parking area. Walkways and small patios are not eligible.

## Want to have pervious pavers in your yard? RiverSmart Homes can help.

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) RiverSmart Homes District-wide program offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing stormwater pollution from their properties.

Find more information about RiverSmart Homes and Pervious Pavers at: [ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes](http://ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes) or call 202-535-2240

*Pervious pavers absorb water and release it to be naturally absorbed by the ground below.*

### Did you know?

**Impervious surfaces cover 65% of District land, equaling an area big enough to hold 175 National Malls!**

