How Does it Differ from Regular Concrete?

In pervious concrete, carefully controlled amounts of water and cementitious materials are used to create a paste that forms a thick coating around aggregate particles. A pervious concrete mixture contains little or no sand, creating a substantial 'void' content. Using sufficient paste to coat and bind the aggregate particles together creates a system of highly permeable, interconnected voids that drains quickly. So instead of water pooling on top and running off into the storm drain, it will percolate down to the gravel layer beneath!

Where Can I Use it?

- Porches
- Driveways
- Patios
- BBQ areas
- RV Parking
- Walkways
- Sidewalks
- Entryways

A Note of Caution: If your project sits near a high water table or on a steep slope, proceed with caution. Professional advice is recommended.

One More Great Idea

RUBBER SIDEWALKS!

Another new advance in permeable pavement is interlocking rubber sidewalk tiles! Easing wear and tear on human joints and helping to keep old tires out of landfills, a new company called Rubbersidewalks Inc has produced a product that is much more than recycled.

Rubber sidewalks boast many green features:

Long lived- Rubber tiles last on average, 3x longer than cement sidewalks.

Permeable- Water percolates through the seams and underneath the channeled backs of the tiles to reduce storm run off and to help keep tree roots watered, happy and below ground.

Cooler- Rubber tiles are more heat reflective and cool 25% quicker than concrete, reducing the heat island effect that can suffocate our cities in the summer.

These are a great idea for residential landscaping, easy for do-it-yourselfers, versatile and long lasting. Check out www.rubbersidewalks.com for more information.

Permeable, Plantable Pavement

When it Rains, It Drains!

CITY OF BROOKINGS

CITY OF BROOKINGS

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Why Choose Porous Concrete and Pavements?

We've come a long way since early cobblestone streets kept our feet out of the mud, in fact we've been a little too successful!

Not only have we managed to keep our feet dry, we have succeeded in keeping the rain water from the soil. Modern conventional paving materials are impervious to the passage of water. And although it is not always apparent, this causes some serious problems.

RUNOFF

The most obvious problem is *runoff*. If rainwater can't soak into the ground where it falls, it will run downhill, picking up pollutants along the way. We can see this at home when water runs off the roof, onto the drive and on into the street. Multiply this effect over the expanse of an entire town and you begin to see how much water runs into our stormdrains. We pay not only to construct storm drains, but we pay for increased capacity to handle our rainy winters. Storm water picks up contaminants: fertilizer, spilled oil, detergents, solvents, dead leaves, pesticides, and bacteria from pet waste. Natural filtration of water through soil is the simplest way to control these pollutants, and is a direct advantage of permeable pavement.

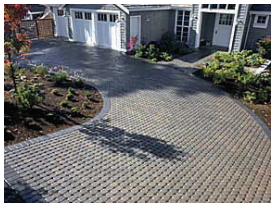
Ground Water

Another consideration, *groundwater sources*. Groundwater provides much of the drinking water in Brookings, keeps our trees and plants healthy, and helps to maintain the flow of the rivers and streams in our area.

Water recharged from land surfaces is naturally stored in the ground and gradually released to streams and rivers. This groundwater discharge sustains base streamflow between rain storms. As we have paved over more and more land, we have bypassed the natural process which lets rainwater soak into the ground where it falls.

Figure 1a. Concrete Grid Pavers (CGP) Figure 1b. Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavers (PICP) Figure 1c. Permeable Concrete (PC)

Fortunately, permeable paving materials allow stormwater to soak into the earth, If you already have a driveway, does it make sense to rip it up and replace it with something porous? Probably not, if it's in good shape. However, if your driveway is due to be repaved, or if you're building a new house, it might be time to look into a pervious system. If you are thinking of adding a patio or sidewalk, consider using permeable pavers or concrete. There are many styles to choose from.



How Does It Work?

By capturing stormwater and allowing it to seep into the ground, porous concrete is instrumental in recharging groundwater, reducing stormwater runoff, and meeting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stormwater regulations. In fact, the use of pervious concrete is among the Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended by the EPA-- and by other agencies and geotechnical engineers across the country-- for the management of stormwater runoff on a regional and local basis.

Where Can I Get It?

Check out these websites for more info:
www.grassypavers.com
www.perviouspavement.org
www.concretenetwork.com/pervious
www.paversearch.com/permeable-pavers-menu.htm

58% of Brookings is covered in impervious surfaces!