



make a clear difference for Flathead Lake

Impervious vs. Pervious Surfaces

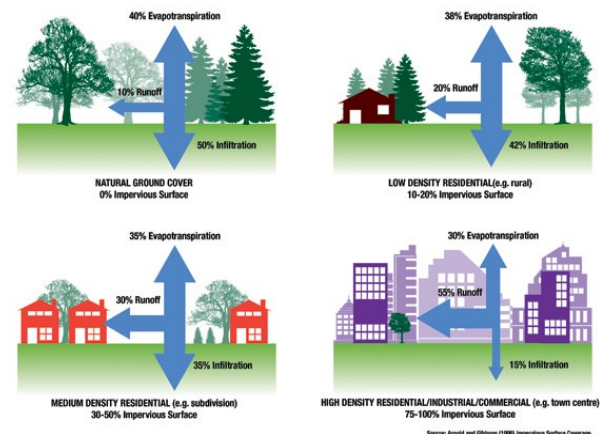
WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Most driveways and parking lots are impervious surfaces (like asphalt or pavement) that shed rainfall and any pollutants (gas, oil, anti-freeze, sediments, etc.) into nearby storm drains and then into streams and lakes. Studies have shown a link between increasing impervious surface area and water quality degradation.



Pervious pavement allows stormwater, along with any pollutants, to drain through its surface and percolate into the soil below, where pollutants can be filtered out naturally. Whether it is a driveway or walkway near the lake, any design that uses alternatives to reduce impervious surfaces is a positive step towards improving the quality of a community's water resource.

EFFECTS OF IMPERVIOUSNESS ON RUNOFF AND INFILTRATION



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Evaluate your property.

- Common impervious surfaces around your property may include roads, driveways, walkways, patios, underneath decks, roof tops, and compacted soil or lawn areas.
- Observe where rainwater and snowmelt go on your property to see if water is flowing over impervious areas toward the lake or another water body.
- The Flathead Lakers can offer ideas to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. Schedule a site visit. We can help!

WHAT CAN WE DO? continued

Choose alternatives.

- Driveway options: Consider using pervious concrete, porous asphalt, paving stones or concrete-based pavers, all of which allow stormwater to seep into the ground.



- Walkway options: A winding path to the lake made of gravel, paving stone, or mulch helps shed water in different directions and allows it to be absorbed into the ground, rather than flow directly to the lake.
- Buffer gardens: Directing stormwater into a landscaped area of plants and shrubs – a "buffer garden" – helps protect water quality. Mowed lawns of turf grass act much like an impervious surface, as the short roots don't effectively soak up stormwater runoff. The deep roots of native flowers, grasses, and shrubs, however, are great at soaking up stormwater runoff and filtering out pollutants. A native plant buffer garden provides beauty, bird habitat, and protects water quality.



HOW TO LEARN MORE

The Flathead Lakers offer opportunities to learn more:

-*Clean Water Practices Site Visits:* We will explore clean water practices that might work for you.

-*Walk and Talk Tours:* Watch for our small group tours to see lake-friendly lawns and other clean water practices in use.

-*Additional clean water practices fact sheets* and informational brochures are available on our website. Visit www.flatheadlakers.org 'Tips for Clean Water Stewards'



Together, we can keep Flathead Lake blue!

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