

## RIVERSMART PERMEABLE SURFACE CARE SHEET

### PERMEABLE PAVERS

The primary goal of cleaning and maintaining your permeable paver system is to extend its functional life by preventing it from clogging. Leaves, weeds, dirt, dust, and other organic matter can clog your permeable pavers and reduce their ability to drain water well. Follow these steps to maintain your permeable pavement installation.



- **Inspection:** Check for any debris, leaves, weeds, trash, etc. that may accumulate between the gaps of your pavers, particularly after every heavy rainstorm and during the fall when leaves are dropping.
- **Weeds:** Weeding by hand is recommended as the safest way to avoid damaging the paver bricks. Please limit the use of chemical and toxic herbicides. A natural alternative ([like vinegar](#)) is preferred.
- **Sweeping:** Sweeping the surface of your pavers will help keep them clear of soil, leaves, and other debris which could lead to clogging. If power-washing, please use caution (low pressure and a 45° angle) or hire an expert familiar with permeable paver systems.
- **Vacuuming:** Clean out the gaps in your paver system by using [Shop-Vac](#) or [Billy Goat](#) vacuums and/or leaf blowers. We recommend using them about four times a year. To search where to rent these tools near you, please visit <https://www.rentalhq.com/>.
- **Damage:** Fix or replace damaged permeable pavers. Fill between the gaps with gravel when necessary. Use the washed aggregate stone your contractor left you with. Gravel can also be purchased at many garden stores, as well as [Lowe's](#), [Home Depot](#), [Amazon](#),

and [Tri-State Stone](#). You'll want to use #8, #9, or #89 crushed, washed stone, which are all  $\frac{3}{8}$ " in size. Please reach out if you have questions about specific gravel needs.

- **Downspout filters:** Regularly check the area under and around the filter, in case leaves and other debris have been directed there. Open the filter and clean it out by hand after every major rain event.
- **Snow:** Shovel only if there are 2 or more inches of snow. Remove snow with a rubber-tipped shovel or plow tip, keeping it 1 inch above the surface. The remaining snow will melt and drain through the surface. De-icing salts should be used sparingly to prevent salt runoff and accumulation in nearby soils. Sanding should be avoided; aggregate stone left by your contractor can be used instead.
- **Protection:** Avoid clogging the permeable system by placing a tarp or other impermeable liner down if storing landscaping or construction materials near pavers. Do not store snow piles containing sand on top of pavers.

## VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

Whether you have sod, grass seed, plants, or trees, there are simple care tips that will ensure the health of your project. Follow these steps to ensure a healthy lawn and/or garden.



- Regularly water vegetation and remove weeds throughout the spring, summer, and fall until the ground freezes.
- Prune back dead branches or stems in early spring if needed.
- Monitor the area year-round for erosion, puddling, significant die-back, etc. This could mean the area needs maintenance.
- Avoid using herbicides on lawns.
- Native plants and trees should not need fertilizer. If you feel strongly about fertilizing your plants, please only use an organic fertilizer.
- Reach out to the RiverSmart maintenance team at [maintenance@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:maintenance@allianceforthebay.org) with any photos or questions you'd like an expert's opinion on.



## MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR

Xtra Care Landscaping and Design, Inc. is able to perform maintenance services on landscaping and permeable pavers. Please reach out to them for specific service requests and quotes.

Xtra Care Landscaping and Design, Inc.

info@xtracarelandscaping.com

301-570-6200

8511 Gue Road

Damascus, MD 20872

This is not an exhaustive list of local companies able to perform this type of maintenance. The contractor that installed the project may be able to provide maintenance services upon request. If you are looking for a new maintenance contractor, ask if they have worked with permeable pavement systems.