

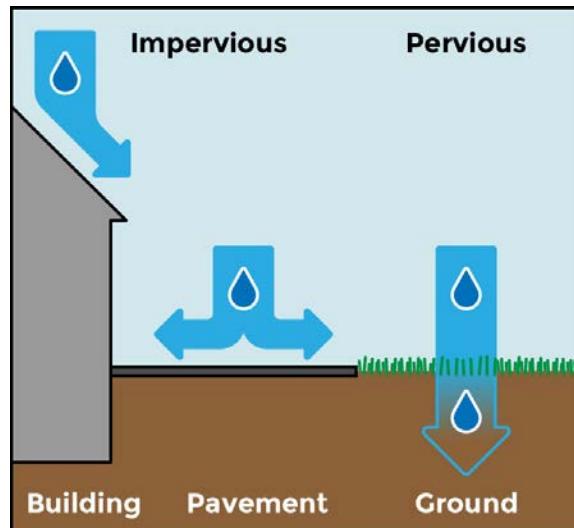
Hard Surface Coverage & Impermeable Surfaces

What are hard surfaces?

Gig Harbor Municipal Code [17.04.408](#) Hard surface. "Hard surface" means an impermeable surface, a permeable pavement, or a vegetated roof.

What is an impermeable surface?

Gig Harbor Municipal Code [17.04.420](#) Impermeable surface. "Impermeable surface" means a nonvegetated surface area which either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil mantle as under natural conditions prior to development, and/or causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from the flow present under natural conditions prior to development. Common impermeable surfaces include, but are not limited to, roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots or storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, gravel roads with compacted sub-grade, packed earthen materials, and oiled, macadam or other surfaces which similarly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater. Open, uncovered retention/detention facilities and tidelands shall not be considered as impermeable surfaces for the purposes of determining whether the thresholds for application of stormwater minimum requirements are exceeded but shall be considered impermeable surfaces for purposes of runoff modeling.



Examples of permeable surfaces

material permeable enough that it allows 100% passing without slowing the entry of water into the soil.

- 1½ - 2" or larger landscape rock
- Artificial turf can be determined permeable depending on the type used and what material is installed under the turf*
- Decks, as long as the decking materials are far enough apart to allow water through, and the material under the deck does not prohibit water from permeating through it.
- Permeable pavers *

*Needs to be reviewed by Planning Staff

Examples of impermeable surface

- Pavers
- Landscape rock with fines (small particles of ground rock)
- Landscape rock smaller than 1 ½"
- Concrete
- Bricks
- Structures

Site Inspections required prior to installation of Permeable Surfaces

Client Assistance Memos are not intended to replace the Gig Harbor Municipal Code. Should you have any questions regarding this information please call the Planner of the Day at (253) 851-6170.