

Why do we need Sustainable Drainage?

Increasing urbanisation where rainfall is channelled to drains and sewers often leads to overloading them and causing flooding. Any pollutants on the surface of the roads and driveways, such as hydrocarbons (oil and fuel), are immediately flushed into the drainage system during a storm.

Local authorities are now requiring an alternative sustainable drainage system of managing surface water that doesn't overload the existing drainage infrastructure causing flooding and pollution problems.

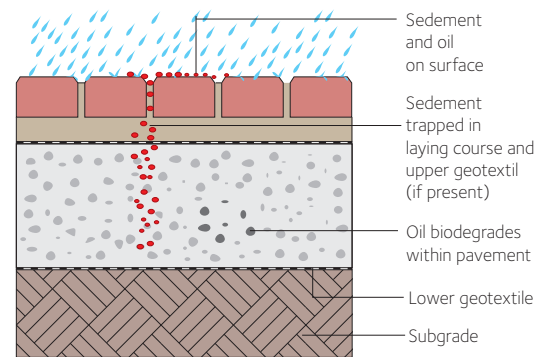
Sustainable drainage systems, know as SuDs, mimic natural drainage processes to reduce the effect on the quality and quantity of runoff from developments and provide amenity and biodiversity benefits.

The builder of your home has chosen a Brett Landscaping permeable paved driveway to achieve sustainable drainage for your home

How does a permeably paved driveway work?

Unlike a conventional driveway that allows the rain water to drain from the driveway surface immediately into the sewer system, a permeable paved driveway allows rainwater to filter through the gaps between the blocks via a permeable jointing aggregate and then into a permeable layer under the driveway (as illustrated below). Research has demonstrated that during this process many of the pollutants will break down and degrade naturally.

Depending on the permeable system used for your driveway, the water will either seep into the ground or slowly drain into the sewer about a day or so later, usually after the rainstorm has subsided and when the sewerage system is not running at full capacity, thereby reducing the risk of flooding down stream.



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Brett Landscaping operate to the highest levels of independent certification:

- BS EN ISO 9001 Quality Management System
- BS EN ISO 14001 Environmental Management System
- OHSAS 18001 Health and Safety Management System

In addition, when designing projects under BREEAM we are also holders of BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products (Very Good)
 All of these can help significantly when designing for sustainability.

How to maintain your driveway

For a permeably paved driveway to work correctly and efficiently, it is important to prevent the joints between the blocks becoming clogged and impeding the infiltration of the rainwater through the joints and lower permeable layers.

It is therefore important not to allow any activities or storage of materials that may lead to clogging the joints. Examples would include mixing concrete or mortars, storing sand, soil, landscaping materials or garden mulch on the driveway.



Ensure that the joints are filled with the correct permeable aggregate.



Remove moss, grass and other debris or vegetation from the joints using a proprietary wire brush.

It is preferable to remove weeds manually, but if weed killer is used it is recommended to apply directly to the leaves of the weed rather than spraying. Ideally this should only be undertaken if it is unlikely to rain for 24 hours.



The joints on the right are full, whereas the joints on the left require topping up with new joint aggregate.