

PRESTO



GEOSYSTEMS®

MYTH BUSTER

Demystifying Porous Pavement Truths

Porous Pavement: Snow Removal Fact Check

Snow removal on a Porous Pavement System (PPS) is easy!



What You Need to Know About Removing Snow from Porous Pavements

Vehicle and pedestrian use on porous pavements don't stop because it's winter. Roads need to be plowed, parking lots need to be cleared, and walking paths need to be snow and ice-free for safe use. This is true for all surface types: concrete, asphalt, and porous pavements—however, it is a common misconception that snow removal is the more challenging with porous pavement systems.



Myth Busted: Snow removal on a Porous Pavement System (PPS) is easy!

Get the answers below to the frequently asked questions about removing snow from plastic, modular type porous pavers.

Can You Apply Salt to Porous Pavements?

Applying salt or ice melt chemicals to gravel-filled PPS surfaces encourages snow and ice to melt, the same as it would on a concrete road.

Applying Salt (continued)

Most porous paver units are made with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), a strong plastic that has a high resistance to environmental factors and is chemically inert.

Cold temperatures and freezing and melting snow or ice will not cause damage or deformation to the paver material. Most importantly, HDPE is chemically stable, so it will not react to applied deicers, including road salt.

The added benefit to using a PPS is that the melting snow will infiltrate through the infill material and into the sub-base, minimizing the amount of surface water that could refreeze over time. With the ice at the surface removed or reduced, the insulating effect is gone, reducing the need for deicing salts by up to 70%. And you don't need to worry about freeze-thaw issues in the base of the PPS either, because of how the open-graded aggregate's high void space gives the water room to expand as it forms to ice.

[See More on Freeze-Thaw >>](#)

Of course, deicers should only be used on aggregate infilled PPS as they would do damage to vegetated paver systems.



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Can You Apply Sand to Porous Pavements?

Using sand, saw dust, kitty litter, or other abrasive materials on the surface of fallen snow can create traction to prevent slips, but doesn't promote melting. More importantly, sand is only effective when it is on top—if it is buried or when the snow melts, the sand is ineffective.

Sand should not be used on PPS because it will eventually seep into the open-graded aggregate base underneath the paver units, causing it to clog. A clogged system will not work properly, leading to excessive maintenance requirements in the spring. Avoiding sand and other fine-grained materials will help keep the PPS in ready-mode for the next snowfall.



How Do You Remove Snow from Grass Pavers?

If the porous pavement system has topsoil infill and sprouts vegetation, then snow removal is typically not required. The grassed area should look and act like a regular lawn, so snow can accumulate and melt naturally. When the snow melts in the spring, maintain the vegetated porous pavement area in accordance with regular landscaping plans.

In the case where snow removal is required—such as an emergency lane—simply leave the blade up 2 inches and allow the remaining snow to melt off naturally. It may be necessary to have visibility poles marking the boundaries of the porous pavement area.

Making Winter Surfaces Safer

As you can see, snow removal on porous pavement systems is easy. Roads, parking lots and walking trails will not only be safer, but with a porous pavement system, drainage and runoff during the spring melt will not be an issue either.

Presto Geosystems offers the GEOBLOCK® grass and GEOPAVE® gravel porous pavement systems to help control stormwater, meet load requirements and suit landscape plans.

See How Grass & Gravel Porous Pavers Work

Watch this video to learn more about our PPS and start building green today >>



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