



# Alternative Driveway Design

## Background Information

Driveways add a significant amount of impervious cover in a community. Driveways often slope to the street and are direct conduits of pollutants from automobiles – emissions, leaks and deteriorating metal parts – as well as from household activities, such as washing and repairing vehicles, maintaining lawn equipment and applying salt for ice removal.

By reducing driveway length and width, less polluted runoff occurs, and construction and maintenance costs are lower.

## Community Strategies

- Encourage the use of shared driveways to reduce impervious areas.
- Consider ribbon driveways, which are two strips of pavement with grass or other porous surface in between. They are cheaper to build and reduce impervious coverage.
- Do not allow roof gutters and downspouts to drain onto driveways.
- Allow and promote the use of porous driveway surfaces, such as porous pavers and reinforced grass grids.
- Consider maximum limits on driveway lengths, widths and curb cut widths.
- Consider relaxed front yard setback requirements to reduce driveway length.

## At a Glance

- Driveways are a significant component of a community's impervious surface coverage.
- To reduce impervious cover, driveways should be designed to be as narrow, short and few as possible.

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### Examples



### For More Information

[NEMO Technical Paper Number 6 – Driveways](http://www.nemo.uconn.edu/tools/publications.htm#technical) <http://www.nemo.uconn.edu/tools/publications.htm#technical>

[California Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbooks by the California Stormwater Quality Association \(CASQA\)](http://www.cabmphandbooks.com) [www.cabmphandbooks.com](http://www.cabmphandbooks.com)

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