

Impervious Surface Conversion

Definition/Purpose

Impervious surfaces are covered by impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick, and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water and prevent precipitation from infiltrating soils. Removal of these impervious materials, when combined with permeable pavement or vegetation establishment, is intended to reduce stormwater runoff rate and volume, as well as associated pollutants transported from the site by stormwater runoff.

Policies

1. Practice must be combined with vegetation establishment or permeable pavement installation.
2. When vegetation is to be established on site, practice should be initiated as closely as possible to the optimum time for vegetation establishment.
3. Temporary conservation cover must be established within 14 calendar days if permanent vegetation cannot be established.
4. Vegetation establishment must include proper soil preparation. Deep tillage using a chisel plow, ripper or subsoiler may be required to address soil compaction. Addition and incorporation of topsoil or organic matter may be necessary for proper seedbed establishment.
5. A Sedimentation Erosion Control Permit may be required.
6. Removal of impervious surfaces adjacent to waterways should be given funding priority.
7. The impervious surfaces to be converted must have been installed for three years or more to be eligible for cost share assistance.
8. If the impervious surface (ex. parking lot) is temporary in nature, review the Division of Land Resources Sediment and Erosion Control Plan and any local ordinances to see if either may require removal of temporary surfaces or limit the amount of impervious surfaces on the property. If the temporary lot is required to be removed or removal is necessary to meet impervious surface caps, the project is not eligible for cost share assistance.
9. This practice shall not be used to offset the expansion of impervious surfaces on the same property or property under the control of the same applicant.

Specifications

N.C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specifications #612 (Tree and Shrub Establishment),
http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/NC/nc612_12-2011.pdf

N.C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specifications #342 (Critical Area Planting)
http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/NC/NC342_CriticalArea_04-2014.pdf