

Resilient Building Toolkit Adaptation Measures Factsheet

Name and description of measure: Permeable paving and soakaway

Permeable paving is a paving system made from sustainable and porous material that allows rainwater and other surface water to be absorbed and move through its base and subbase, therefore reducing the amount of runoff which can lead to flooding.

Examples of permeable paving include roads, paths, lawns, car parking, driveways, cycle paths, access lanes and residential paving.

A soakaway is a drainage system that is a hole in the ground that is filled with gravel or hardcore where rainwater and other wastewater drains slowly into the ground.

Cost of measure (high, medium or low):

Medium - High

Both measures initial outlay can be expensive, depending on the size of the area and material used.

Pros and Cons:

Pros

Helps floodwater recede more quickly.

Does not need a large area of land to be installed.

Helps to recharge groundwater levels, thereby preventing drought.

Easy to construct and operate.

Can be retrofitted to existing developments/sites.

Cons

Not suitable for poor draining soils.

Not suitable where infiltration water may put structural foundations at risk, or where infiltrating water may adversely affect existing drainage patterns.

Possible increased risk of groundwater pollution.

Effectiveness of measure (high, medium or low):

Medium to high

Photos:

