

## **Reinforced Grass Paving Systems**

### **Definition**

Grass paving systems are an alternative to asphalt that are strong enough to support heavy vehicle loads and yet are water permeable.

### **Benefits**

- permits surface water filtration/drainage
- eliminates need for a catch basin system

Modern grass paving systems are of two types. In one system, open cells of reinforced plastic are designed to house the roots of the grass. This open cell system houses and protect the plant while allowing the blades of grass to fill in completely for a "lawn" that hides the support system. The roots stay cool and the grass thrives. Driving on the grass has no effect on the protected roots, just as moving the blades of grass strengthens and thickens it. In this system, turf is pressed into the open cells. If the roots are above the cells, car wheels will spin the grass off the grass pave structure.

A second system has open spacers of plastic fitted with pavers that allow gaps between the pavers for gravel or grass. This rigid spacer system allows for surface drainage between the pavers to replenish groundwater and creates an attractive, durable hard surface of cobblestone suitable for light to medium loaded parking areas. In this system, grass is seeded into sand.

Both types of grass pave installations may be swaled to collect rainwater and direct water to storm drains or catchment systems. Grass paving with a porous sub-base allows rainwater to percolate through the soil to the groundwater. A catch basin and underground drain system is not required in these installations.