

## Retrofitting Existing Driveways with Best Management Practices A Homeowner Roadmap

### Local Jurisdictions and Conservation Districts Contact Information

- City of South Lake Tahoe: Building Department (530) 542-6020
- El Dorado County: Building Department (530) 573-3449
- Placer County: Department of Public Works (530) 581-6227
- Washoe County: Building Department (775) 832-4140
- Douglas County: Engineering Division (775) 782-6235
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (775) 588-4547
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District (530) 543-1501 Extension 6
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (775) 586-1610 Extension 28

### Runoff Infiltration Requirements

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District provide homeowners with free assistance to design runoff infiltration systems for their driveways and other impervious surfaces. For more information visit <http://tahoercd.org>, or [www.ntcd.org](http://www.ntcd.org).

- Pursuant to subsection 25.5.A of the TRPA Code of Ordinances, all property owners in the Tahoe Basin are required to install infiltration facilities (BMPs) designed to accommodate the volume of runoff from a twenty year/one hour storm, which is approximately one inch of precipitation in an hour.
- Driveways are impervious surfaces producing runoff that must be infiltrated within your property boundaries as required by the TRPA Code of Ordinances.

### Important Considerations:

- You are required to capture driveway runoff up to your property boundary. It is the responsibility of your local jurisdiction to infiltrate runoff from the public right away (the street and the driveway section between your property boundary and the street edge)
- Your driveway BMPs must be installed within your property boundary. However, exceptions allowing systems to be installed partially or completely within the public right of way are sometimes granted by the local jurisdictions if physical barriers are preventing the installation within your property boundary. Contact your local jurisdiction for more information.
- If your driveway is in need of a complete replacement it will be more economical to integrate BMPs in the new installation rather than retrofitting your old driveway. Further, this presents an opportunity to grade the driveway so that it forces runoff to sheet flow across your front yard or a naturally vegetated area (within your property boundary). This design is the most economical and easiest to maintain.

- Capture and Conveyance - driveways that drain towards the street must have a capture and conveyance system installed such as a swale or slotted trench drain to divert driveway runoff to an appropriately sized infiltration system.
- Maintenance – systems that are easy to inspect and clean are highly recommended. Filter fabric is especially useful for underground systems. Removable grates on trench drains are a must for ease of maintenance.
- Safety – design a system that will eliminate ponding and subsequent ice patches on your driveway.
- Previously parked on compacted bare soil areas that are not paved must be blocked off and restored to natural conditions.

### Materials

Some landowners elect to replace portions of their existing driveway with pervious driveway materials such as pervious concrete or impervious materials such as paving stones that can be shaped into a conveyance swale. Alternatives to asphalt driveway materials may be worth consideration for aesthetics, costs, water infiltration characteristics and ease of installation. Many alternative driveway materials can be installed by the homeowner, which can make the driveway installation more economical. However, in Douglas County and the City of South Lake Tahoe work done in the public right of way (the section between the street edge and your property line) must be done by a licensed contractor. Contact your local jurisdiction for additional information and requirements. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency requires a driveway paving material that produces a hard, plowable surface. For information on alternative paving materials that may meet this requirement visit <http://tahoercd.org>, or [www.ntcd.org](http://www.ntcd.org).

### Contractors

- A list of contractors who have attended the most recent BMP Contractors Workshop can be obtained at <http://www.tahoebmp.org>. This is a list of attendees for informative purposes only. The TRPA cannot verify the qualifications or licenses of any of the individuals on this list.
- If you hire a paving contractor you should discuss who will be responsible for obtaining applicable permits and ensure that appropriate driveway BMPs are installed at the time of paving.