

rethink/ PAVEMENT



Lighten up with Cool Pavement

What is a cool pavement?

The term “cool pavement” denotes materials and construction techniques selected to reduce the absorption, retention and emitting of solar heat.

For homes, the paved areas to consider include driveways, sidewalks, parking areas, patios and paths.

On a hot August afternoon, would you rather walk barefoot on black asphalt or light-colored pavers? Instinctively, we know that dark colors are hotter, because they absorb more solar heat.

Reflected heat from dark surfaces contributes to the heat island effect – which in turn drives up energy use and costs for air conditioning.

So, when selecting paving materials for areas around a home or other building, choose a light color and a relatively porous material.

Not only will the pavement itself stay cooler, it will help keep air temperatures more comfortable in the surrounding area and citywide.

Pavement makes up 30–45% of land cover in Austin. It can reach peak summertime temperatures of 120–150°F. The more cool pavements we can use, the better for Austin.

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This Austin home uses light-colored, permeable pavers for a front walkway -- a cooler choice to a dark or solid concrete path.

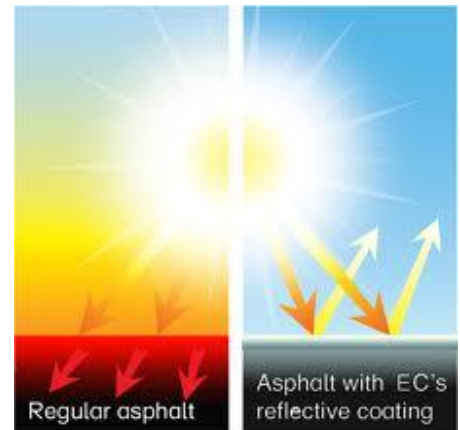
BENEFITS:

- Reduces the heat island effect - helps to lower air temperatures, improve air quality, and quality of life during the heat of summer
- Keeps surfaces more comfortable to the touch
- Promotes cooling, through increased air filtration and evaporation.
- Porous/permeable paving reduces stormwater runoff and the need for stormwater retention.
- Reduces heat released back into the air at night.

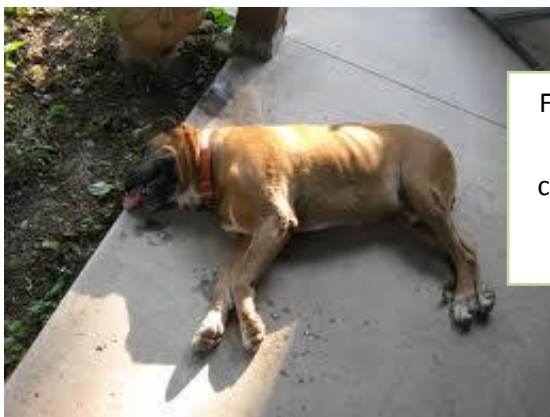
CHOOSING A COOL PAVEMENT

Cool pavements are light in color, and may have special reflective components and properties. They can be made of porous material, which traps less heat and allows water to seep into the ground below.

Air pockets allow air and water to flow and circulate through the material and lower the pavement's temperature. Pervious pavements include gravel driveways, porous concrete, or parking area pavers that have openings for grass.



For larger and commercial areas, such as parking lots and roads, consult with a qualified professional about the specially manufactured cool pavements that are available. They utilize coloration, materials, porosity, and processes that increase solar reflectivity.



Fido doesn't need a heat absorption index – he instinctively knows to choose cool, light-colored pavement for his summer siesta!

Resources

EPA – Cool Pavement www.epa.gov/hiri/resources/pdf/CoolPavesCompendium.pdf

Cool Communities www.coolcommunities.org/cool_pavements.htm