

Pervious Concrete: The Environmental Solution

Chadbourn Street Grows by Design



Pervious concrete is a mixture of coarse aggregate, Portland cement, water and little to no sand. A typical pervious concrete pavement has a 15-25% void structure and allows 3-8 gallons of water per minute to pass through each square foot.

Project Summary:

New Hanover County is one of many coastal counties in North Carolina subject to the rules and policies of the Coastal Resources Commission, a state agency that administers the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). Before any planned development commences in one of these counties, the contractor/developer must check to see whether the project is in an Area of Environmental Concern, requiring a CAMA permit.

The low-traffic parking lot and public street serving this private beachfront town home development is located directly on Wrightsville Beach at the end of a street with city easement. After hearing from the contractor-developer-ready mix supplier team about the benefits of pervious concrete, the city gave permission to pilot the alternative product. In the end, the city was more comfortable about covering more surface area by allowing a pervious material.

The developer incorporated a grid of decorative concrete bands separating the panels of pervious concrete. The pervious concrete contractor placed the 12 inch perimeter concrete border first and then filled in the pervious concrete panels. Afterwards, the transverse concrete bands were filled in to complete the parking area. A more aesthetically pleasing parking area was achieved by combining darker gray pervious concrete with lighter colored conventional concrete.

Project Name: Chadbourn Street – New Hanover County – Wrightsville Beach, NC
Project Type: 5,730 sq ft pervious concrete parking lot and street
Concrete Contractor: BCH Concrete
General Contractor: Collins Building
Ready Mix Supplier: S & W Ready Mix Concrete Company

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