

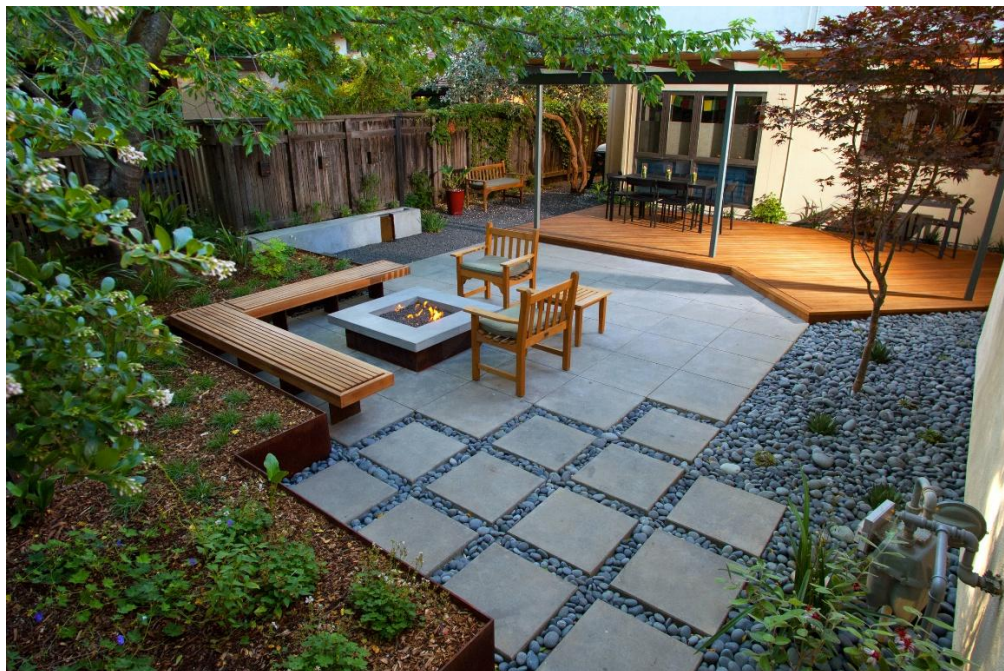


THE BENEFITS OF ONSITE INFILTRATION OF STORMWATER

HOW TO MANAGE STORMWATER IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

One of the best things you can do to prevent stormwater pollution is allow stormwater to infiltrate on your property. Buildings and pavements act as a cap on the ground that won't allow water to soak into the soil. This creates more storm water runoff than would occur naturally, and that runoff can carry pollutants such as oil, trash, pet waste, and excess fertilizer directly into our local waterbodies. Plants and soil hold and slow water down, acting as a natural filter as it is absorbed into the ground. Here are some features you could incorporate that promote infiltration:

- **Permeable Paving:** Permeable paving can be anything from modular pavers set on a sand setting bed to porous asphalt to cobbles that are interplanted with mosses.



- **Gravel and Stone:** Gravel and stone beds are called infiltration trenches or stone swales when used for stormwater control. They are designed and graded like swales — linear depressions that receive stormwater — to specifically hold and infiltrate water into the ground. Gravel and stone infiltration trenches and pits can be integrated into the landscape in numerous ways. Some examples include installing them as gravel trenches, gravel walkways and dry creek beds. If you choose to work stone into your landscape, be

sure to use local materials. Rocks and pebbles from your region will integrate with your landscape's color, texture and tone.



- Planted areas: Rain gardens are depressions in the landscape near runoff sites specifically designed to store water before allowing it to infiltrate into the soil. Rain garden plants sustain periods of drought followed by flooding and help clean out the chemicals and contaminants in stormwater as it infiltrates the soil. Rain gardens can store and cleanse large amounts of runoff from rooftops and other large surfaces. You can also direct downspouts directly to rain gardens through swales.



- Terracing: Steep slopes are prime areas for slowing down stormwater for infiltration through terracing. Pictured here is a slope that has been terraced with stone-faced walls and planted with grasses, shrubs and perennials.

