

Parking Frequency and Duration with Grasspave²

Questions are frequently raised regarding the use of grass porous pavement surfaces (reinforced with Grasspave²) for parking functions. Grass as a surface material can withstand from two to six (varies with grass species and environmental conditions) trips daily over the same spot. This suggests that most parking applications we pave with asphalt today could be paved with grass instead. To resolve these questions for specific projects, we need to evaluate the nature of the parking demand in terms of frequency and duration.

Parking Frequency - How often will each parking space be used by a vehicle?

Surface Recommendations		Parking Bay			Parking Aisle		
Usage	Example	Grass	Gravel	Asphalt	Grass	Gravel	Asphalt
Several cars/hour	close-in retail, daily, 24 hrs		X	X		X	X
Few times/day	handicapped, visitor, or resident	X	X			X	X
Once/3-4 hours	golf course, bowling, theaters, parks	X	X			X	X
Three times/day (24 hrs)	staff 24 hrs/7 days		X	X		X	X
Once/day(6-12 hrs)	office/retail staff, school, baseball	X	X			X	X
Once/2-3 days	primary church, peak weekly retail	X	X			X	X
Every weekend	overflow church, nursing home visitor	X	X			X	X
Occasional	professional/college sports, peak yearly retail	X	X		X	X	X

Parking Duration - How long can grass be shaded by vehicle?

Our most telling experience comes from Grasspave² used for outdoor display areas for new automobile dealerships. Most dealers will display several autos in the same locations for 7 to 10 days, then rearrange them for a different look from the street. After 10 days there will be a small 7 inch square light green patch from below each tire, and a general lighter green color under the central area below the body. The general lightened area will recover in one to two days of sunshine, while the tire patches can take 4 to 5 days to recover. Thus, vehicles can remain parked on grass for extended periods of time, provided some relief can be given for a few days to recover. An example might be parking bays for a baseball stadium, where the team would be at “home” for up to 14 days, but then leave for a road trip. Another example might be a business that works 7 days per week, but parking spaces are occupied for 8 to 10 hours per day, allowing sunlight in early morning or evening hours to reach grass (and allow for mowing and irrigation).

Many projects might have unique circumstances related to traffic and parking patterns. If you have questions, please give our professional staff a call for assistance.