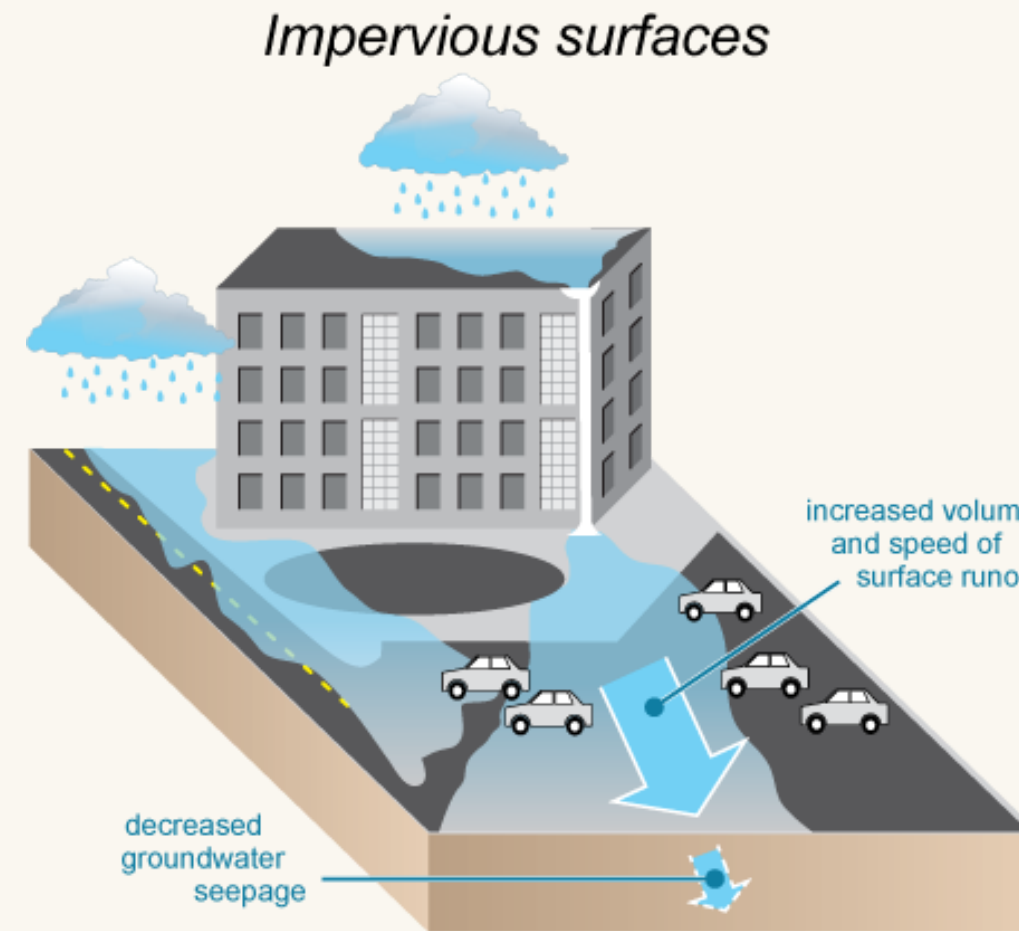


Technical Learning

Pervious Furfaces vs Impervious Surfaces

Pervious Furfaces: Surfaces such as the dirt on the floor that can allow water soak through

Impervious surfaces: Surfaces such as asphalt that can't be soaked or penetrated by water



Impervious 'hard' surfaces (roofs, roads, large areas of pavement, and asphalt parking lots) increase the volume and speed of stormwater runoff. This swift surge of water erodes streambeds, reduces groundwater infiltration, and delivers many pollutants and sediment to downstream waters.



Pervious 'soft' surfaces (green roofs, rain gardens, grass paver parking lots, and infiltration trenches) decrease volume and speed of stormwater runoff. The slowed water seeps into the ground, recharges the water table, and filters out many pollutants and sediment before they arrive in downstream waters.

Conceptual diagram illustrating impervious and pervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces are hard and increase stormwater runoff, causing pollutant and sediment delivery in downstream waters. Pervious surfaces are soft and decrease stormwater runoff, which filters out pollutants and sediments before they arrive in downstream waters. Diagram courtesy of the Integration and Application Network (ian.umces.edu), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Source: Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, 2013. Stormwater Management: Reducing Water Quantity and Improving Water Quality. IAN press, newsletter publication.