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Pathway Erosion

Pathway erosion is a common problem in both urban and rural areas. Heavy rainfall creates fast-flowing surface run off, which can easily move large amounts of loose material due to the energy contained within the flowing water.

Despite having been laid correctly, many pathways cannot withstand the force of water, resulting in them being damaged beyond repair or completely washed away. In most cases, this is caused by movement of the material that supports the top surface rather than the top surface itself.



The image above shows a KBI Flexipave pathway in West Yorkshire that withstood the heavy rainfall that badly affected the area in December 2015.

The picture clearly shows that the land adjacent to the path - which is on a steep gradient - has been washed away by surface water travelling from the non-porous road surface at the top.



KBI Flexipave helps to combat pathway erosion in two ways.

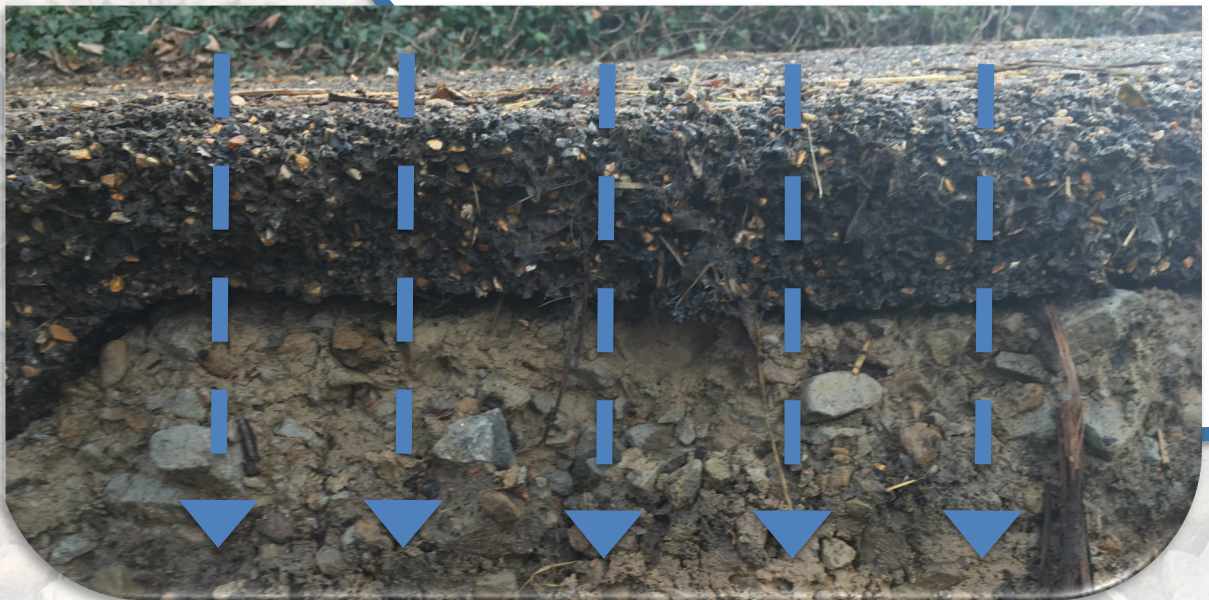
Firstly, as a highly porous surface, KBI Flexipave is able to assist in the drainage of fast flowing surface run-off by directing it downwards as soon as it hits our material. By reducing the lateral movement of water through the sub-surface, KBI Flexipave is reducing the potential for the sub-surface to be washed away.

Secondly, the act of allowing the water to pass through the thousands of tiny voids within the material means KBI Flexipave diffuses the energy held within fast flowing water, effectively lowering its ability to cause damage.



The below cross section is the same pathway. Finished in KBI Flexipave HD 2000 (50mm), rainwater falling on the top surface is allowed to immediately penetrate vertically through the surface. Whilst passing through the thousands of voids within the KBI Flexipave, the kinetic energy within the falling rainwater is diffused, reducing the pressure placed on the sub-surface.

When installing pathways in areas that have previously suffered from erosion, note the lip of material built into the top surface (circled). These lips are applied at regular intervals and act as teeth that grip into the sub-surface. This construction process helps to maintain a strong and stable pathway.



The image to the left shows that the pathway has retained its structural integrity despite the adjacent land having been washed away by heavy surface water run-off.

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