

contained
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CONTAINED PLANTERS

(contained planter boxes)

contained planter is filled with soil and plants that accept precipitation only, not stormwater runoff from another source. It is placed above ground on an impervious surface. Rainwater is temporarily stored above the soil, and then filters down through the planter. In some cases, weep holes provide drainage through the bottom of the planter onto the impervious surface. Contained planter boxes can be prefabricated pots or constructed in place. They come in all shapes and sizes, are made of stone, concrete, brick, plastic lumber or wood, and can hold a variety of plants.



Benefits

A contained planter reduces impervious area and stormwater runoff. Contained planters are simple, cost-effective, and visually appealing. They can be placed on many types of flat impervious surfaces, such as sidewalks, plazas, and rooftops.

Vegetation

Planters can contain small trees, shrubs, flowers, bulbs, and groundcovers. Trees are especially recommended because they provide canopy cover for impervious surfaces not covered by the planter. Self-sustaining plants that do not require additional fertilizers or pesticides are recommended.

Maintenance

Contained planters require minimal maintenance. Check them periodically to maintain adequate drainage. They are likely to need summer watering and weeding. Potted plants require more water than the same plants growing in the ground.

Cost

The cost of contained planter boxes varies, depending on the size and materials.

Safety and Siting Requirements

- Locate planters on virtually any impervious surface. They can be any shape or size, as site requirements, budget and maintenance dictates.
- Refer to Portland's Stormwater
 Management Manual for detailed information on sizing, placement, and design.

Permits

 Planters located on ground level within the public right-of-way may require approval from the City Forester and portland Department of Transportation.



Examples

1100 block of the downtown Portland transit mall

Federal Building, 1200 SW 3rd Ave.



