



'GARDEN ANGEL' FACTSHEET

Reducing the Risk of Flooding

You do not have to live by a river to be at risk of flooding. Heavy downpours can cause local flash floods almost anywhere. The risk is greater in cities, towns and villages where so much land is tarmacked or concreted over. Paved front gardens have an impact which goes far beyond the front gate - urban areas generate nine times more runoff water compared to the same area of woodland.

- **USE PERMEABLE SURFACING:** there is a good range of permeable surfaces you can use to create, driveways, parking areas and paths. Using these products will reduce the burden on overloaded drains during heavy rain and reduce toxins entering the drainage system. Suitable products include permeable concrete and clay block paving, gravel and grass reinforcing systems.
- **CHANNEL RUNOFF INTO BORDERS AND SOAKAWAYS:** if your front garden is already paved, you could consider adding more drainage to divert runoff into areas of planting. Linear drains look neat and are easy to install.
- **CREATE A 'SINK' TO ABSORB TOXINS:** direct storm water into a shallow depression containing bark mulch (you won't notice it's there) and planted with shrubs. Research show this can remove up to 99% of toxins from run-off.
- **CHOOSE PLANTS THAT WILL COPE:** there are plenty of plants which will tolerate waterlogged soil and survive sporadic flooding.. **Plant suggestions:** dogwoods, guelder rose, hostas, purple loosestrife, royal fern, sedges, Siberian irises, willows.

Designing with the environment in mind

The Garden Angel community keeps in touch through a free newsletter, which can be sent by e-mail, or by post. If you would like a copy, please contact us.

If you have any tips to share with our members we would love to hear from you. Please send them and/or your completed form to: Garden Angel, 9 - 11, Main Street, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9JU. Or e-mail: gardenangel@angeltomney.co.uk

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