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Can pavement fight water pollution? Dunedin hopes so

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

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A city worker lays Flexi-Pave in a parking lot in downtown Dunedin.

PIHELLAS COUNTY (Bay News 9)

-- A Bay area city hopes the pavement can be its first line of defense against dirty storm-water run-off.

Last week, the city of Dunedin installed something called Flexi-Pave in a small parking lot downtown. Now the parking lot looks like most other parking lots, but it is made of recycled tires. The material soaks up run-off, like oils

and grease from cars, before it reaches the storm drains.

"Without the Flexi-Pave system in place, the runoff is going to go into the streets into the drain systems and back into the water systems," said Glen Brooks, the national production manager for [KB Industries, Inc.](#), which produces Flexi-Pave. "What that does is create a dead water, where plant life and animal life have a hard time functioning."

Engineers hope that the Flexi-Pave will help protect the city's waterways, which is one of it's biggest attractions.

"One of the reasons people come here is for the water, for the boating, for the fishing, just enjoying the beach, and you want the waters to be clean," said city engineer Jon Everett.

Right now, Flexi-Pave is used in parking lots and on trails in several Bay area cities, but Dunedin is the first place it is being tested for performance.

Every three months, company engineers will take a sample through a valve from beneath the pavement. After a year, they expect to see a significant reduction in pollutants.

Water pollution isn't the only issue KBI company officials hope their product will help resolve. Each parking space uses more than 50 tires, which they hope will also help the country deal with the increasing number of used tires in the United States.

More Information

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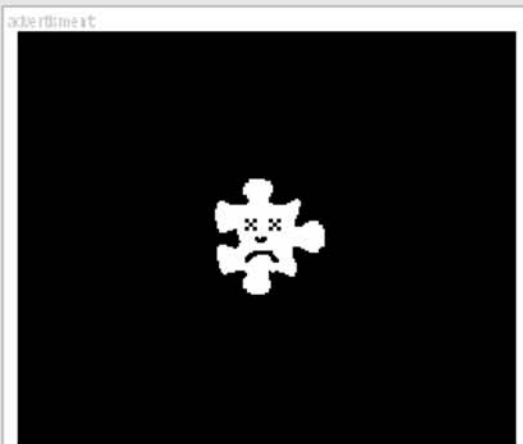



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