Porous Pavers

Replacing some or all of a property's impervious driveways, walkways or parking areas with permeable surfaces is another option to consider to reduce the heat island effect and to reduce storm water run-off. As the proportion of land covered with impervious surfaces continues to grow, dealing with storm water in the built environment is increasingly costly, demanding, and important. Natural environments are able to absorb most storm water loads, maintaining a healthy hydrologic balance. Porous unit pavers made from concrete, ashpalt or plastic include open-grid products that can be filled with aggregate or plantings. Solid unit pavers are often used in porous pavement systems, installed to have drainage voids along the installed edges. Porous pavement needs to be installed above a "reservoir" of uniform-sized aggregate (for example, 1-1/2" crushed stone). In addition to infiltrating storm water, porous paving systems planted with grass also minimize contributions to the urban heat-island effect while providing visually appealing outdoor space.

Additional information on cool pavement, including porous pavers is at:
http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/images/extra/level3_pavingproducts.html