



Porous Pave: The Proven Pour-in-Place Permeable Paving Material



Dave Ouwinga grew up in the small town of Grant, Michigan in the western part of the state. How small? The population was 894 according to the 2010 census. Traditional, small town, Midwestern values are what Dave is all about.

His dad was a roofer, but his passion was fish farming. He built that hobby into a company, Stoney Creek Fisheries, which he started in 1970.

Growing up, Ouwinga worked after school and on weekends at his dad's fish farm. "That's how I learned the value of honest, hard work," he said.

Dave went to work full-time at Stoney Creek in 1986. Ouwinga said that his experience working in his family's fish farm business taught him a great deal about how to build, maintain and repair ponds and all about pond products, like pumps and rubber liners.

"People would come and would ask me, 'Where did you get that pond liner? Or, 'Who makes that pump and where can I get it?' For a long time I just referred them to our supplier, but then it dawned on me that we ought to sell those products ourselves."

Ouwinga began to sell the components customers had been asking about. A number of manufacturers made him a distributor for their pond products.

In the 1990s, he took note of a new trend. "Landscape architects were designing waterscapes and ponds for both commercial and residential properties," he recalls. "Landscape contractors were asking me about the components. Same things. Pumps and liners."

Onsite working alongside contractors and using the products he was selling to build ponds, Ouwinga started seeing ways in which the products could be improved. "We started EasyPro Pond Products in 2000 to manufacture and market our own brand."



Interestingly, it was through pond products that Ouwinga got introduced to recycled rubber and permeable paving. "Pond liners use recycled rubber, and innovators were working on different uses of rubber recycled from scrap tires, including mixing chips of rubber with stone and a binder to make pavement with void space that lets water drain through."



Ouwinga took note of another trend in the 2000s: increased demand for products like permeable pavement to decrease harmful stormwater runoff in order to comply with requirements of the Clean Water Act.

The proverbial light bulb of inspiration clicked on again. Ouwinga started Porous Pave, Inc. in 2006 to manufacture and market Porous Pave, a highly porous, durable and flexible paving material that incorporates recycled rubber, stone aggregate and liquid binding agents.

"The market has continued to grow," he said. "Every 1,000 square feet of two-inch Porous Pave uses rubber from 300 old tires. With more than two million square feet installed since we started, we have surpassed ten million pounds of recycled rubber used in applications of Porous Pave."

So, how did Porous Pave become used for bunker liners at golf courses? For years, golf courses have used it for paving patios, sidewalks and cart paths. The Keswick Golf Club selected it to build seven miles of cart paths.

"While working on installing Porous Pave at golf courses, superintendents starting explaining their problems with bunker liners and asked us if our product could be a solution," said Ouwinga. "We realized that Porous Pave could line bunkers with one continuous, consistent, and durable rubber-rock permeable surface - sealing bunker floors to keep sand clean, stabilizing the sand, and holding it in place on bunker slopes."

Dave got out there on golf courses himself, not to play, but to get onsite himself to figure out how to best adapt Porous Pave for lining bunkers.

That was how Ouwinga came up with Porous Pave XLB and Sand Guard. "It is much more hardwearing



than fabric liners, and with more than three times the permeability of non-fabric liners, it drains rainwater from bunkers more quickly, keeping them playable."

It all goes to show that working hard and focusing on solving customers' problems is the path to success.

For more information call (888)448-3873, or visit Porous Paves website at www.porouspaveinc.com

