

Surface Dressing

What is Surface Dressing

The roads in your area are inspected regularly by Roads Engineers to determine whether any maintenance work is required.

It is important that road surfaces are sealed to prevent water seeping in and to prevent oxidation. It is also important to have the correct surface texture. Your road has been identified as requiring such treatment.

Surface Dressing is a mixture of polymer modified bitumen emulsion and a layer of chippings. It will seal the surface, improve surface texture and prolong the life of the road by many years.

It is a speedy, efficient and economic method of preventative maintenance and carrying out minor re-profiling of carriageway surfaces.

The process is undertaken from late May to early August.

The Surface Dressing Process

1. The surface dressing process is very weather dependent and cannot be applied to wet or cold roads or during high air humidity levels or very high road temperatures.
2. The road is swept and cleared of any built up detritus and all ironwork masked over.
3. The Sprayer machine is driven slowly along the road spreading the bitumen evenly across the width of the box.
4. This is followed closely by the chipping spreader and lorries. There is an excess of chips spread on the road to prevent traffic or pedestrians from picking up wet tar.
5. Depending on the type of surface dressing there may be two coats of tar and chippings applied or two layers of chippings.
6. The material is given an initial embedment with a pneumatic tyred roller. The action of further trafficking helps the material to embed and achieve its optimum strength.
7. Following completion of the work there will be a degree of stone loss. This will be removed by a suction sweeper in stages. Traffic signs will be left in place advising of the risk of loose chippings and showing an advisory speed limit.
8. The first sweep will normally take place 24 to 48 hours after the initial process. Sweeping earlier than this may damage the surface in its early life.

9. The masking is then removed from the ironwork in the road.
10. Trafficking will continue to help with the embedment of chippings. However this must be at low speeds.
11. It is advisable to remove outdoor shoes prior to entering your house and to check pets for any sticking tar. This is important in the early life of the process but should quickly settle down.
12. When there is no further loss of aggregate, all temporary signing will be removed.

Important Information

Notification of work

Notices will be erected in the road stating exactly when the work will start. Please look out for these notices in order to ensure work is not delayed because of parked cars.

We ask you to ensure that you do not leave your car parked on the road or footways when the work is due to start.

At the start of the work traffic control measures will be put in place to create a safe working environment for our operatives.

During the Works

Generally, work will be carried out between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

On street parking will not be possible during these times other than for very short durations.

Vehicle access to your properties will be possible most of the time during the works but you may experience delays immediately after the material has been laid.

Please drive slowly whilst travelling through the site. This is to protect our employees and your vehicle. Be prepared to be guided by one of our operatives if necessary.

Pedestrian access to your property will be maintained throughout the works.

Please do not hesitate to enlist the help of one of our operatives if you are in need of any assistance.

The material will remain wet for anything from 15 minutes to 40 minutes after it has been laid, depending on the temperature and humidity.

On no account attempt to access or exit your property by driving or walking over the newly laid material until the chippings have been spread.

After Completion

The new surface can be driven on generally within 15 minutes after completion.

An excess of loose aggregate will build up on the road for a period of time after completion. This is normal. Please drive slowly and observe the temporary signs that will have been left in place.

The road will be swept again after a few days to remove the surplus aggregate.

Further sweeping may be necessary for a while if there is continued stone loss.

Depending on traffic flows it can be up to six months before the surface achieves its final visual and structural characteristics.

For a short time, particularly if the weather is warm, there may be small areas of bitumen that are still soft. Please take great care. If you have to walk on the new surface please check your shoes before entering the house or getting into your car.

Danger warning

This work involves the use of heavy plant and machinery. Please do not allow your children to play near this equipment whether or not work is in progress.