

1800
367-7623

Surface Treatment Process

Surface treatment begins with asphalt being sprayed directly onto the pavement surface. Once the asphalt is applied, it is immediately followed by an application of fine stone, which is rolled and compressed into the roadway and partially embedded in the pavement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is being done?

In the Hunting Hills subdivision, there are 27 streets that will be surface treated. VDOT has notified the homeowners' association and Roanoke County that contractors will be performing this work in the subdivision.

Q: Why is this being done?

Although nothing may appear wrong with your road, surface treatment is a routine maintenance operation to protect and extend the life of pavement on low volume roadways. The gravel and liquid asphalt actually build up some structure on the road surface.

Surface treatment seals the pavement surface against weathering and the negative effects of moisture penetration. It also makes the road more skid resistant. Applying surface treatment can extend the life of the pavement by 5-10 years.

Q: When can I expect work to be performed on my street?

Weather permitting, this work will begin in early May and should be completed within 6-10 days. Contractor crews will work during daylight hours on weekdays. Generally, work hours are from dawn till dusk.

Q: What are the traffic impacts?

Flaggers and pilot vehicles will control traffic at times. Drivers should use caution, expect delays and watch for signs.

Q: What will take place during this road work? What will residents see, hear and observe?

The contractor will distribute fliers to alert residents that applying surface treatment has been scheduled in their area. Residents will see road workers, vehicles and equipment on the roads in their subdivision. The brief removal of vehicles from the street may be required when work is underway, as well as obstructions such as basketball hoops or garbage cans. No parking signs will be placed temporarily to alert residents to park off the street.

During surface treatment application, the contractor will place roofing paper in front of concrete and architected driveways to protect them from asphalt overspray. However, this will not eliminate tracking of stone or asphalt when vehicles pull into driveways off the road.

Q: How does VDOT decide which roads receive surface treatment instead other treatments or asphalt paving?

VDOT tries to treat our roads every 5-7 years. Roads with lower traffic volumes such as secondary routes and subdivision streets receive surface treatment or slurry seal based on the condition of the roadway. These are more cost effective treatments than asphalt paving and still extend the life of the existing pavement. Local VDOT maintenance staff performs "road rides" each spring and summer to determine what roads are in need of repair and maintenance. Contractors are then hired for the following year to apply the appropriate treatment.

Q: I would prefer my neighborhood receive a different treatment. Can my neighborhood ask to receive something other than what we are scheduled to receive?

No, VDOT determines what treatment a road receives based on traffic volume and pavement condition.

Q: How does VDOT oversee the contractors carrying out the work?

VDOT has inspectors on site to ensure work is carried out appropriately, and according to state specifications.

Q: My street was treated using surface treatment/chip seal, which included a top coat of fine stone dust, which is gray or brown in color. When will this subside?

Loose stone will eventually subside as it absorbs into the road surface or works its way onto the road shoulders. . After a curing period, excessive stone or sand can be removed by sweeper vacuums. In some cases, where traffic and rain do not displace or wash the majority of the loose stone away from the road surface, VDOT will schedule sweeping operations. If the area treated receives rain too soon too much stone may be displaced before proper curing can take place, in this case more stone may be displaced and the treatment could fail.