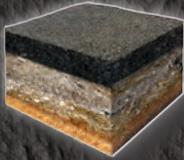
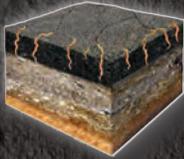




Why Sealcoating Asphalt Is A Smart Way To Protect What Is Likely The Biggest Investment On Your Property



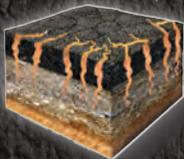
Asphalt begins to deteriorate soon after pavement installation. Oxidation and decomposition under the sun's rays is a pavement's worst enemy. In addition, oils, salts, and chemicals will accelerate the deterioration of the pavement surface.



Pavement will begin to lose its flexibility due to the breakdown of the asphalt binders. Surface cracks begin to appear, increasing in size and number, and deterioration begins to work its way down into the pavement foundation.



Water can now more easily penetrate beyond the hairline cracks that have been forming. Seasonal freeze-thaw cycles expand and contract water trapped in the pavement. This expanding and contracting begins to tear apart the pavement itself.



The surface now becomes rough and brittle, water continues to work into the foundation. Now the sub-base structure that the asphalt layer is resting on is being damaged. The process of deterioration will begin to speed up at this stage.



The asphalt surface is now too far gone to repair. Cracks have led to broken bits and chunks as the surface layers come completely apart. Large potholes form that can damage vehicles and cause safety issues on your property.

A Properly Sealcoated Asphalt Pavement Can Extend The Life Of That Pavement By As Much As 300%. The Cost Of Sealcoating Is Truly A Minor Expense Compared To The Cost Of Pavement Replacement.

Sealcoating Acts As A Shield, Protecting Against Weathering Effects And Oxidation Caused By The Sun's UV Rays. Sealcoating Also Acts As A Barrier And Protects Against Gasoline, Oil Drippings, Grease And De-Icing Salts.

Life Cycle Cost Analysis Studies Have Established That Unprotected Pavements Will Likely Cost A Property Owner As Much As Five Times More Compared To A Pavement That Has Been Protected With A Regular Maintenance Program.

Properly Maintained Asphalt Surfaces Provide The Property Owner With The Best Visual First Impression, Lower Costs For Cleaning, Higher Traffic Marking Visibility, And Ultimately A Safer Overall Environment On That Property.

6595 New Peachtree Rd. ▲ Doraville, GA 30340

800-815-7668

www.herculessealcoat.com



**HERCULES SEALCOAT
MANUFACTURING, INC.**



SEALCOATING ONTO NEW ASPHALT

There are some things you should know about your new asphalt pavement, and how soon you can successfully apply a sealcoating to that newly laid surface.

Please take a moment to understand what to expect, and some DO's and DON'Ts for freshly installed asphalt surfaces:

- ***How long should wait before I can apply a sealcoating to my new asphalt?***

Newly installed asphalt pavements must be allowed to cure sufficiently so as to allow the oils in the new asphalt to oxidize and dissipate. In most cases we recommend at least 90 days in warmer weather to allow this process to take place. These oils in the new asphalt can cause a sealcoating to dis-bond from the asphalt surface if they are not given time to cure out.

- ***How can I know that the oils in asphalt have dissipated enough so as not to cause a problem?***

A simple way to check for oils on a recently installed asphalt pavement is to perform a "Water Break Free Test". This test will help to confirm that the surface oils have dissipated, by observing how a gallon of clean water casts out across the pavement surface. The water should sheet out and uniformly wet the surface with out beading or showing oil rings.

- ***Is there any way to speed up the process so I can apply a sealcoating sooner?***

Only time can properly cure out a freshly laid asphalt surface. It is not recommended to apply a sealcoating while significant oils are still present on the surface. There are several primers that work well on smaller patched areas and can act as adhesion promoters between the newly installed patch and the sealcoating that will be applied to this surface.

It is recommended that you consult with your sealcoating contractor for advise on this subject and allow them the opportunity to help you make an educated decision on what will work the best for your situation.

CARING FOR NEWLY SEALED ASPHALT

A proper sealcoating and crack sealing maintenance program will not only keep your asphalt pavement looking beautiful, it will also save you money by protecting the asphalt from deterioration.

Please take a moment to understand what to expect, and some DO's and DON'Ts for freshly sealcoated asphalt surfaces:

- ***How long should I stay off of my driveway?***

As the manufacturer we recommend 24-48hrs. You will be able to walk on your driveway much sooner than this, but we recommend not driving on it for at least 36hrs if at all possible.

- ***How long does it take a newly sealcoated driveway to dry?***

In ideal weather conditions the drying will only take a few hours. However, just because it's dry on top and dry to walk on does not mean it's CURED. Curing is the evaporation of all liquid from the sealer. The dryer and hotter the weather the faster it will cure.

- ***Can I drive on a driveway that is NOT fully cured?***

Absolutely, you can drive on your driveway. 100% cure may take longer, but after 36 hours it will be cured to about 95% and you will not hurt your sealcoat. That last 5% of the cure takes the longest.

- ***I've noticed that I'm leaving tire marks on my new pavement, is there something wrong?***

Nothing is wrong! This is a normal part of the process. The material used to seal your driveway is thermoplastic and the marks left by your tires will run themselves out and disappear. It's just like freshly paved asphalt, those tire marks will disappear. Once your driveway has achieved a complete 100% cure, it will no longer mark.

- ***Is there anything I can do to avoid marking the driveway before it is 100% cured?***

Yes. Try to avoid turning your tires very hard or turning the wheels while the vehicle is not moving. Again, if you do leave marks, they will eventually go away.

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DORAVILLE, GA 30340

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www.HERCULESSEALCOAT.com

Toll Free 800-815-7668
Tel 770-455-6551