

PREVENTION

Asphalt sealcoating is an important part of maintaining asphalt because it prevents damage and extends the life of your surface.

- It protects against UV radiation.
- It prevents excess water and chemicals from seeping in.

UV and seepage are what causes cracks to form and grow. Cracking might seem like a minor issue at first, but cracks lead to potholes, which may also expand with winter conditions and snow removal.

Sealcoating essentially prevents space from being created in the asphalt and leading to these undesirable issues. Thus, it will help keep your costs down over time (it typically costs less to sealcoat than to repair damaged asphalt).

Sealcoating also enhances the appearance (or "curb appeal") of your parking lot, making it a deep, black color again. Unsealed asphalt attracts dirt and vegetation, while a sealed lot is easier to keep clean.



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UNDERSTANDING THE POTHOLE PROCESS

CUSTOM ASPHALT SOLUTIONS

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WHY DO POTHOLES FORM?

Potholes form due to the wear and tear from weather and the amount of traffic on the pavement. They are caused by the expansion and contraction of water after it has entered into the ground under the pavement. As the weight of cars and trucks pass over the weak spot in the road, pieces of the pavement weaken, which causes the material to break down from the weight, creating the pothole.

Most potholes appear in late winter and the early spring due to excessive water from the freezing and melting cycle, which weakens the pavement and leads to cracks and potholes.

THE IMPORTANCE OF POTHOLE REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

Roadways, driveways and parking lots that are not properly maintained may result in costly vehicle repairs.

Not only is pothole repair critical in regard to vehicle maintenance, good upkeep of a business' parking lot sets the stage to ensure a good impression is made on visitors and prospective customers.



REPAIR

Once the potholes are formed, they need to be repaired. Potholes can grow because of the traffic and weather conditions. The bigger the hole, the more dangerous it can be for vehicles.

- Clean the pothole. Dirt and debris that can get in and under the pavement needs to be removed. Having pieces of broken pavement mixed in with the new pavement can weaken the repair.
- Heat the pothole. Heating the hole removes any extra moisture that may be in the existing pavement and also softens the area so the new asphalt can be applied. The pothole can also be reshaped once it is softened and old asphalt can be removed or rejuvenated.
- Add the new asphalt. Typically, hot mix asphalt is used for this repair. The asphalt needs to be compacted after applied to ensure the reduction of water penetration and increases its resistance. The compaction creates a bond between the old and new asphalt pavement.
- Allow the new asphalt to cool. Any debris left around the repair is removed. Most pothole repairs can be driven on immediately.

WINTER REPAIR:

Potholes can be fixed, even during the winter, by using cold mix asphalt. Cold mix asphalt is produced by mixing bitumen emulsion or cutback with cold aggregates, sometimes with the addition of anti-stripping agents. The mix of aggregates is very similar to that of hot mix, it just has additives that keep it workable in cold conditions. The benefit cold mix asphalt has over hot mix is that it can be used at low temperatures. It remains more flexible than hot mix because of the extended cure time. It can also be put in stockpiles for six months or so after production.

Wolf Paving creates special cold mix asphalt, specifically used for pothole repair. Cold mix asphalt is made of quarter inch chip and proprietary oil, which keeps the asphalt soft and helps to repel water. The special part about this mix is that it doesn't have to be hot to be workable. Additives in the oil keep the mix soft all year long to allow for pothole patching in all different types of weather. It stays soft in cold temps and repels water, so when you're filling wet potholes in the springtime, it will drive water out of the pothole and adhere to the surface underneath. This mix will flex and move with a pothole, allowing it to stay in the hole keeping it patched.

Along with this type of cold mix, Wolf Paving makes another type of cold mix, with very similar properties. The mix has sand in it, making it look more like a driveway or parking lot mix. Both products work very similar, and provide benefits depending on the customers' tastes and needs.

Wolf Paving produces and sells cold mix asphalt for maintaining streets and filling potholes in the winter months when hot mix is not available. The cold mix is sold by the ton all year round. We can deliver it or you can bring a truck in and we'll sell just about any amount needed for your project. It can be delivered or can be picked up at either of their locations in Oconomowoc and Sun Prairie.

