Chipseal Overview

Chipseal surface treatment is one of the largest projects that MCRC conducts during the year. Chipseal treatments are typically done in the early summer months when conditions are optimal.

Chipsealing is a process used for pavement preservation and rehabilitation, in which, an asphalt emulsion is placed on a prepared roadway, and immediately thereafter, an aggregate (loose stone) is applied to the roadway, which is compacted to create a revitalized road surface.

By comparison to other road surface treatments, chipseal is one of the most economical, and long-lasting options available to MCRC.

Service Requests

To file a service request, MCRC can be contacted either at our office or by telephone, and your request will be forwarded to the appropriate department;

Phone: 231.788.2381 (Press 1)
Fax: 231.788.5793
Chipseal Benefits

Chip seals are used for restoring skid resistance, protecting a surface from aging, restoring a running surface, eliminating dust, and sealing gravel pavements.

Benefits
- Enhances Traction/Skid Resistance
- Cost Effectiveness
- By Comparison, Chip Sealing is substantially cheaper than repaving

Durability
Chip Sealing roads allows them to wear well, and have long service lives. By sealing underlying cracks, the asphalt emulsion applied to the roadway makes the road surface more resistant to water intrusion and subsequent pothole damage.

Ease of Construction
Chip Seals are typically constructed rapidly and cause less disruption to the traveling public than traditional repaving.

Depending on the length of a given stretch of roadway, chipsealing can take as little as several hours, to a full day to complete the application.

Construction Process

Construction Sequence
The sequence of construction events is as follows:
1. Project Preparation
2. Surface Preparation
3. Binder Application
4. Aggregate Spreading
5. Rolling
6. Sweeping (Brooming)

Preparation of the road surface is crucial to ensuring the longevity and effectiveness of the chipseal application. Before the chipseal application can get under way, the road surface must be smooth, and free of irregularities.

Depending on the surface conditions, a number of services may be required, including: wedging of the surface if there is extensive loose material, crack sealing, and pothole patching may need to be done.

Before applying the chip seal, the pavement must be swept clean of dust and debris.

Brooming is done before, and after the chip seal operation. Brooming is done using rotary brooms with nylon or steel bristles or with vacuum mobile equipment, and is either done within 1-24 hours of chipseal application, depending on the rate at which the emulsion binder dries.

Conditions

Chipseal Treatments are typically conducted during the summer months, as the asphalt emulsion requires warm temperatures and low humidity to be effective.

Taking into account change in weather, cost effectiveness, and traffic convenience, chipseal treatments are generally done in a single day for a given stretch of road.

Road Closures

Roadways being chipsealed often require lane or full roadway closure to ensure timely completion of the project with the least amount of disruption.

Depending on the roadway, traffic levels, and other factors, surfaces being chipsealed may be limited to a single traffic lane, or may be closed altogether for both traffic and road crew safety.

Driving Tips

- Drive at slow to moderate speeds without sharp acceleration through recently chipsealed areas, to prevent loose aggregate and hot asphalt from damaging vehicles and road surface.
- Driving cautiously through chipsealed areas helps reduce the likelihood of damage to vehicle finishes and/or windshields from road projectiles.