



Chip Seal

WHAT IS CHIP SEAL?

Chip Seal is a process used for pavement preservation and proactive treatment, in which, an asphalt emulsion (glue) is placed on a prepared roadway, and immediately thereafter, an aggregate (loose stone) is applied to the roadway, which is compacted into the emulsion to create a new driving coarse.

Chip seals are used to give roads longer life. The emulsion works as a glue to fill in any cracks that are seen or may appear while the stone creates a new driving coarse, and can protect the road from everyday driving use.

◆ DRIVING TIP ◆

Drive at slow to moderate speeds and avoid sharp acceleration in recently chip-sealed areas.

Cautious driving helps prevent loose aggregate and hot asphalt from damaging the road surface and reduces the risk of vehicle damage, including paint chips and windshield cracks.

BENEFITS OF CHIP SEAL

Chip sealing improves traction and skid resistance while also being a cost-effective maintenance option – substantially less expensive than full paving. The process helps roads wear better and last longer by sealing underlying cracks before the asphalt emulsion is applied.

This added protection makes the road surface more resistant to water intrusion and the pothole damage that often follows. That's why you may see chip sealing on roads that appear relatively newly paved.



CHIP SEAL PROCESS

Surface Preparation: Roads are swept to remove loose material that would not allow the emulsion to adhere. Any minor road deformities would be serviced prior to the chip seal operation.

Conditions: Chip seal treatments are typically done during the summer months, as the asphalt emulsion requires warm temperatures and low humidity and dry conditions to be effective.

MCRC follows all MDOT guidelines for seasonal and weather limitations for the operation.

Sweeping: Before applying the chip seal, the pavement must be swept clean of dust and debris. Sweeping is done before and after the chip seal operation. This is done using rotary brooms with nylon or steel bristles or with vacuum mobile equipment within 1-24 hours after completion of the chip seal application.

Road Closures: Roadways being chip sealed 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 chip sealed may be limited to a single traffic lane or may be closed altogether for both traffic and road crew safety. Please be patient.

Rolling: A roller is used to compact the stone into the emulsion.

Completion: Signage and speed limits will be reinstated once pavement markings have been painted.

