

What Is Micro-Surfacing?

Micro-surfacing is a preventive maintenance sealing treatment used to extend the life of blacktop roadways. Advantages of micro-surfacing for asphalt roads include:

Cost effectiveness: micro-surfacing costs are approximately one-third the costs of a pure blacktop overlay and, while slightly more expensive than a slurry seal or a tar and chip, it produces a far better product than both for blacktop roadways.

Easy application: due to the thin depth of the micro-surfacing, no milling or utility adjustments are necessary, thereby further reducing the costs.

Extending the life of the asphalt: micro-surfacing extends the pavement's life at least 5-7 years.

Suitability for low volume roads: due to the thin depth of the surface, the material has minimal structural enhancement capabilities, but works exceptionally well for low volume roads like subdivisions with aging pavements.

Concerns of micro-surfacing include:

Smoothness: immediately following installation of the material, the road may not feel as smooth as a new blacktop roadway. However, as traffic drives over it and the sun heats the pavement during the hot summer days, the asphalt will begin to smooth itself out.

Stones: immediately following installation of the new surface, the material will appear to be "falling apart" due to the number of small stones that will be present. These small stones are added to the micro-surfacing mix to provide additional durability and increase skid resistance. Since the depth of the mix is so shallow, many of the stones will not adhere and will need to be removed. In order to allow the material to completely set up, the contractor will wait 10 days and then return to perform this sweeping operation.