Surface Dressing – FAQS

Why do you carry out Surface Dressing and Micro Asphalt works?
The reasons for using surface treatments are:

• **Skid resistance** – the application of either material will rejuvenate the road’s skid resistance – something which should not be under-valued during the snowy winters we have.

• **Sealant** – each process will seal cracks and joints (of a reasonable width), and prevent water entering the road construction. Water which enters in this way is quite often the cause of potholes during the cold months of the year.

• **Uniformity** – by covering the whole road with one surface treatment, a degree of uniformity to the appearance of a road will be achieved on a road which has been continuously patched and potholed time and time again.

• **Strengthening** – Micro Asphalt also offers a limited degree of structural enhancement to the road – small potholes and large cracks can be repaired (rather than just covered up). Surface dressing does not offer this additional strength, and large cracks/potholes need to be treated beforehand or they will show through in a very short time.

• **Economy** – the cost of Micro Asphalt, per square metre of road is approx £8. The cost of Surface Dressing, per square metre is £4. The cost of removing the top 100mm (4”) of a road surfacing and replacing it with a new tarmac surface is in the region of £25 per square metre. Sometimes a road will be too far gone to respond favourably to a surface treatment, and a ‘Rolls Royce’ £25 sqm job is the only answer. However, if the road is at the beginning of its decline, and only just showing signs of tiredness and wear, then a surface treatment will halt the decay and actually extend its working life by up to 10 years. Surface Treatments are predominantly used as pro-active long-term maintenance for roads, rather than reactive repair treatments.

Why are Surface Dressing works delayed?
Surface Dressing cannot be laid in the rain, on a wet surface or if it is too hot and neither surface treatment can be laid in cold temperatures. With the UK weather being fairly unpredictable and inconsistent, it is extremely likely that delays will occur at least once during the programmes.

Generally, if work is delayed because of weather, it is unlikely the crew will be able to move to the next site (as the weather is likely to be just as bad). Therefore, the crew will stand down until the weather improves and they can continue with the work.

Can I get access during surface dressing works?
A road closure will be necessary for most surface dressing works. During this time, it will be very difficult to provide safe vehicular access in/out of the works. Ideally, residents who need access within working times should be advised to park outside of the working area. The sooner we know of an access request, the more likely we will be able to accommodate it - we shall try and give access to vehicles as far as is safe and practicable, but delays will be inevitable.

Why are there so many loose chippings after surface dressing and will you be removing them?
Loose chippings – both surface treatment processes shed their chippings for several days after they have been applied. This is why we have a road sweeping regime over the following week to try and retrieve this potential skid-risk item. As mentioned, we also have a 20mph ‘advisory’ speed limit on all Surface Dressing sites. Travelling at this speed dramatically reduces the amount of chipping ‘flick’ beneath a vehicle and sometimes onto the windscreen. Sadly, it is not uncommon for complaints of damage to vehicles to be received at this time – normally due to either the driver not driving to the new road conditions or a third party causing a loose chipping to strike someone else’s windscreen.

Why is there dust during surface dressing works?
Dust should not be an issue following works. If there is dust, please contact us and we will offer further advise.

What happens when equipment breaks down during surface dressing?
We would hope the equipment will not breakdown during the Works, but it does happen. Similarly to bad weather...
delays, the Programmes will pick up from where they stopped (although a machinery breakdown should be repaired and operational, or replaced within 24 hours). Materials are being stockpiled around the County where needed – their availability should not be a problem.

**Surface dressing works have been left incomplete – will you be coming back?**
Because of the aftercare regime required for surface dressing, we do not totally finish the works in one visit. Sweeping, Lining, reflective studs and manhole/gully adjustments all take place after the initial visit.

**When will the white lines be replaced after the resurfacing / surface dressing?**
Contractors will repaint all lines once they have completed their work. This can be up to 2 weeks after completion depending on the type of new surface - time taken to set.