

Westford Pavement Management

Westford's Pavement Management Procedure

The Town of Westford has a program of preventative maintenance for pavement. We still work on the streets that are in poor shape – but our focus is on maintaining the streets that are in fair to good condition. We do this so they don't decline to poor condition and require major repair.

To further extend the life of our pavement, we use a surface treatment on streets called chip seal. Compared to asphalt, chip seal extends the life of our pavement more cost effectively.

Why chip seal?

To stretch limited town dollars and focus on pavement preservation, chip seal costs much less than asphalt.

Type	Cost
chip seal	\$6.50 per sq. yd.
asphalt	\$36.90 per sq. yd.

Chip seal works best to preserve pavement that is in good condition. Westford typically uses asphalt on streets that are in fair to poor condition.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does Chip seal look and feel different than asphalt?

Yes. Chip seal has larger rock pieces than asphalt. This means it is a rougher surface. Chip seal comes in both grey and black, while asphalt is typically black. Chip seal also smoothes out over time – as vehicles drive on it. Eventually, it will look and feel similar to asphalt.

Will there be loose rock that needs to be swept up?

Yes. The chip seal process generates excess rock that needs to be swept up, which will be done by the town.

Why do chip sealed roads still have bumps?

Chip seal will not fix bumps. Chip seal is a treatment that is designed to seal the existing surface of the street. Bumps and dips that were

there before we chip sealed will still be there after the treatment.

Why don't I get nice smooth asphalt on my street?

We are spreading our limited resources throughout the town to keep all the pavement in good condition.

Can I drive on a freshly paved road?

You can drive on chip seal right after it is applied. With asphalt, you may have to wait a few hours before driving on it.

Will every street in Westford get a new surface?

Yes, as funding allows.

Why are we using chip seal instead of asphalt?

Chip seal is used to stretch limited town dollars and focus on pavement preservation. Chip seal costs much less than asphalt (\$6.50 per square yard for chip seal, compared with \$36.90 per square yard for asphalt). Chip seal works best to preserve pavement that is in good condition. We typically use asphalt on streets that are in fair to poor condition.

How do you decide whether to apply chip seal or asphalt?

Every year we evaluate the condition of the pavement on Westford streets, and decide on treatments based on conditions and available funding.

What is Westford's goal for pavement management?

Westford's goal is to extend the life of pavement and delay the need to replace streets for as long as possible. We do this by:

- Preserving streets that are in good condition;
- Reducing the need for expensive repairs; and
- Evaluating street conditions every year.