

## Surface Dressing in your area

### What is Surface Dressing?

Surface Dressing is the most cost effective road surface treatment used to prolong the life of roads that are starting to show the first signs of minor deterioration.

It improves the road surface, skid resistance and seals the surface to stop water getting in. This protects it from damage caused by severe winter weather conditions and traffic

### How is Surface Dressing laid?

The material consists of a thin film of bitumen that is sprayed on to the road surface followed by one or two layers of chippings. The chippings are then rolled into the bitumen by a heavy roller to form an interlocking, long lasting surface.

We use full road closures to carry out this work. This process is completed quickly and can be driven on immediately, under reduced speed limits. These are put in place to protect road workers, reduce the risk of damage from loose chippings and for the safety of all the public.

Loose chippings are swept away after 24 hours and again after four/five days. We will return to sweep the road again after this if necessary.

### Why are we doing it now?

Surface Dressing is carried out during the spring/summer months as the bitumen works best on a dry surface. Surface dressing cannot be carried out in cold or excessively hot or wet weather. Although we always endeavour to stay to our programme date, this could mean that our crew cannot work on the day we have notified.

Please accept our apologies if this is the case.

### What benefits will you see?

Surface Dressing is quick to apply and requires only temporary road closures. It is ready for traffic to travel on the new surface immediately after works are completed, reducing delays, and inconvenience to road users. The surface is normally used for arterial routes and rural carriageways. The dressing creates a seal, preventing water from penetrating the road surface and prolongs the life of the road by up to 10 years.

### What about parking?

During our operations, please ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the highway. We will require full access, at all times, to the road. **'No Parking'** signs will be erected throughout our sites to advise residents of the times when vehicles should be moved. Areas that have significant parking throughout the day will be required to relocate vehicles for up to a period of seven days after the application to ensure that all of the excessive aggregate has been removed by mechanical sweeping.

### What can you do to help?

We want to get as much done as quickly and safely as possible. Parked cars are our biggest challenge. We will notify you of the days we are working and ask that you ensure all vehicles are taken off the roads and footpaths.



**Towaway – moving vehicles parked in our work space**

We have been working with the authority and have agreed that unlawfully parked vehicles that are preventing the works taking place may be relocated to an adjacent street.

An approved contractor will carry this out and vehicles will be moved within the vicinity. We understand that it may not be possible to move your vehicle at this time. If this is the case, please contact us on the details below to discuss.

**Please look out for the signs in your street****Before we start work:**

- You will receive written notice, at least two days, before the work starts. However, please refer to the signs on your street for the latest information because, as mentioned above, adverse weather conditions and situations beyond our control can affect the programme dates.
- Parked cars are a real problem and we ask that roads are kept clear of vehicles on the days of work so that we can complete the stretch of road in one visit.
- Signs will go up if we are using Towaway.
- Traffic management will be put in place to ensure everyone's safety and minimise disruption. At each location, we will implement a road closure with a signed diversion route.

**During the works:**

- This method of road repair, coupled with the necessary road closures, does mean that there will be delays.
- Our teams will allow vehicle access as soon as it is safe to do so. There may be delays.
- Pedestrian access to your property will be maintained during the works by our safety marshals. They are there to help you and can be identified by their jackets, which state they are Pedestrian Marshals.
- Vehicle access and on street parking will be restricted whilst the work is taking place. Please follow any advisory signs.



**If you need to speak to someone on site, please call 07870 894321**

**After the works have been completed:**

This is a very cost-effective way of carrying out road repairs. It is very important that everyone drives slowly after the chippings have been laid to avoid any loose stones causing damage. A temporary 20mph restriction will be in place.

**Things to remember:**

- The new surface can be driven on almost immediately.
- Traffic movement is essential to embed the chippings.
- Please do not access your property by vehicle until the contractor has left site.
- Please observe all the traffic control measures that are in place at all times and do not drive on the wet road surface at any time.
- The surfacing does remain soft and could get onto shoes. Please take great care and inspect your shoes before entering property and cars.
- Please be mindful of children and pets after the surface has been laid.
- Road markings will be repainted.



**Why do you put on a 20mph speed limit in place?**

Surface dressing is vulnerable to fast or turning traffic immediately after laying. Speed restrictions are introduced, with drivers reminded to drive at 20mph or less through areas being treated with surface dressing. Travelling any faster than this may prevent the chippings from becoming properly embedded in the binder – as well as risking broken windscreens and chipped paintwork. We leave these signs up for some time as it does take time for the chippings to bed in and this needs traffic movement. We urge everyone to follow these speed limits.

**What about cyclists and motorbikes?**

In everything we do, we think about the implications for all road users. We understand that the chippings do pose an issue for cyclists and motorcyclists. This method of treatment does mean we can address longer stretches of road and make the best use of the funding available to us. The surface dressing does take time to settle and we will put up advance warning signs to allow you to make informed decisions about the route to take on your journeys.

**After the Surface Dressing has been completed:**

As mentioned above, the road will be swept approx. 24 hours and four/five days after the new surface has been installed. Road markings will also be repainted within 2 weeks. This will usually be carried out during the day under a full road closure. Please refer to our yellow advanced warning signs on the approach to the works for dates/times.

**Our Commitment to You:**

Northamptonshire Highways is committed to the consistent improvement of the roads and footpaths within Northamptonshire and to working closely with local communities, residents and businesses to build a better county.

**We promise to:**

- **Keep the public informed of our programme and any changes.**
- **Minimise disruption.**
- **Co-ordinate with other road works.**

**Contacting us:**

To ensure any enquiries are dealt with correctly and to report defects, please use our online Street Doctor service. This process ensures issues are recorded and addressed appropriately. Once reported, you will be issued with a unique reference number and be able to follow the progress of your enquiry.

- Website: [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor)
- For information and transport and highway updates follow us on **Twitter @nnhighways**
- To view road works and diversion routes go to **one.network**
- **For general enquiries regarding the works** - Please call 01604 883400 08.30 – 16.00 Monday to Friday  
(If you cannot get through on this landline, please call 07542 857947 08.30 - 17.00 Monday to Friday)

Unavoidably, there will be some disruption during the works, but we aim to minimise this wherever possible. We work with the utility companies that provide gas, electricity, telephone and cable services to ensure we coordinate and manage our activities to cause as little disruption as possible.

We would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. Your cooperation means we will achieve the best results and can really make a difference in your area.

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