

## What is a Chip Seal?

Chip seals, sometimes referred to as stone seals, are one of the most widely used pavement preservation treatments in the northeast and across the country.

Although chip seals have been used for many decades, the process and materials used today have been greatly refined and improved, resulting in a significantly higher performing product.

### Chip Seal Process



1) Cleaning of the existing roadway surface to remove dirt and debris.



2) Spray application of polymer modified asphalt emulsion.



3) Immediate covering with high quality, single-size stone cover aggregate.



4) Rolling of the surface to assure embedment of the cover aggregate.



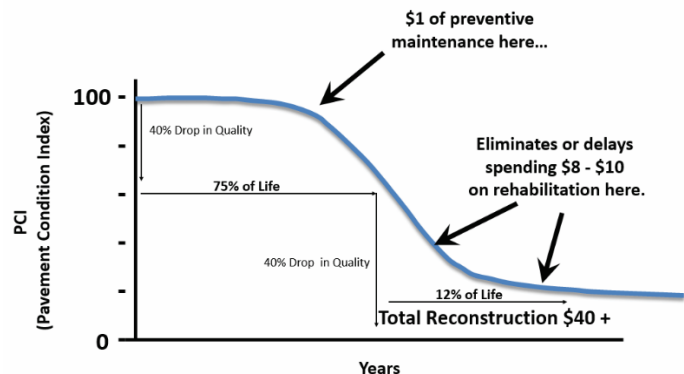
5) Sweeping after 2-5 days to remove any excess stone from the roadway.

## What is Pavement Preservation?

Pavement preservation is utilizing cost-effective pavement maintenance techniques to treat roads before they begin to deteriorate to the point of costly repair or rehabilitation.

Similar to performing routine maintenance on a vehicle or a house, it has been shown that performing more frequent, less expensive treatments on roadways eliminates or greatly delays the need for expensive work in the future (as is shown in the chart below). The overall result is a significantly lower cost over the lifetime of a road.

### Life of Pavement



More information on Pavement Preservation is available from the following organizations:



National Center for Pavement Preservation

<http://www.pavementpreservation.org>



FP2: For Pavement Preservation

<http://www.fp2.org>

## Benefits of Chip Seals

Chip seal surface treatments offer numerous benefits as a preventative maintenance process.

### Treatment Performance

- Seals and waterproofs the existing surface, preventing air and water intrusion.
- Creates a flexible layer that has a higher resistance to cracking.
- Improves skid resistance, greatly improving wet weather and winter traction.
- Protects underlying pavement from traffic wear and damage.

### Construction Process

- Quick construction process minimizes user delays and reduces equipment on the roads.
- Thin profile eliminates the need for milling, adjusting of structures, and maintains curb reveal and driveway transitions.
- Water-based emulsions applied at lower temperatures improve worker and public safety.

### Cost Savings

- Stretches maintenance dollars as one of the lowest cost treatments available.
- Delays or prevents future costly repairs and road rehabilitation.
- Allows for more miles of roadway to be treated compared to HMA paving.

Treatment	Cost Per Mile
{INSERT CURRENT TREATMENT}	\$#####
Chip Seal	\$#####
<i>*Based on current pricing and 24 ft. wide roads</i>	

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## Commonly Asked Questions

### Do chip sealed roads look and feel the same as paved roads?

*No. Chip seals are not a paved process and will have a coarser surface texture, especially immediately after the treatment. Chip sealed roads will smooth out over time as vehicles drive them, and they will eventually look and feel similar to a paved road.*

### Will there be loose stones on the road?

*Yes. There will initially be excess stones that will need to be swept up. Depending on conditions, this is typically done 2-5 days after the road has been treated.*

### Can I drive on freshly treated roads?

*Yes. Chip sealed roads can be driven on immediately after they are rolled; however, drivers should exercise caution and travel at a reduced rate of speed for the first few days or until the road is swept.*

### How do you decide which roads to chip seal and which roads to pave?

*Every year the town evaluates the condition of the pavement on all of the roads and decides on the best treatments based on conditions and available funding.*

### Why are you working on roads in good condition instead of fixing the bad roads?

*The goal of the town is to extend the overall life of our road network. By keeping our good roads in good condition and avoiding expensive repairs, we can improve the overall condition of the entire network. The town will continue to repair poor quality and unsafe roads within our overall network plan and budget.*