

If your road is going to be chip sealed...

- **Parking will be restricted** on roads that will be chip sealed. "No parking" signs will be placed at each end of the road prior to work so you can move your vehicle from the street or shoulder. Parking restrictions will be removed as soon as we're done with the chip seal application, which typically occurs within a day.
- **Disrupted access to your driveway** may occur for a few minutes, but King County crews will work to minimize delays. The new surface can be driven on almost immediately, but slow speeds are required.
- **Keep your speed under 20 mph** when driving on fresh chip seal. High speeds can cause newly-applied rocks to fly and fresh asphalt to splatter.
- **CAUTION** Bicyclists and motorcyclists should use extra caution due to loose rock.
- **Keep your pets indoors or fenced in** on the day of chip sealing, for their safety, and to avoid their tracking any chip seal residue into your home.
- **Expect some loose rock** immediately following the chip sealing. The roadway surface will improve over several weeks as the surface stabilizes, resulting in a stronger, more durable roadway.
- **We ask for your patience** as there are many factors involved with chip sealing, including good weather.

www.kingcounty.gov/roads

Resources

King County Road Repair
www.kingcounty.gov/roadrepair

King County My Commute
www.kingcounty.gov/mycommute

King County Road Alert
www.kingcounty.gov/roadalert

Contact us

24/7 Road Helpline
www.kingcounty.gov/roads
206-296-8100 or 1-800-527-6273

Comments?

If you have comments or questions regarding services provided by our division, please feel free to contact us by e-mail or phone.

08/10RSD

Alternative formats available
206-296-6590 TTY Relay: 711



King County

Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street
KSC-TR-0313
Seattle, WA 98104-3856
206-296-6590
Fax 206-296-0566
E-mail admin.roads@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/roads

What is chip seal?



King County

Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

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Chip sealing a rural county road

What is chip seal?

Chip seal is one of the oldest and most successful road-resurfacing methods, designed to extend the life of a road's driving surface. The chip seal process involves applying a layer of asphalt emulsion and aggregate rock over the road. The process consists of liquid asphalt, immediately followed by rock chips (ranging in size from 3/8 to 1/2 of an inch).

The chip seal application helps restore the road's skid resistance, smoothes irregularities and other damage, and prevents further deterioration of the road.

Chip seal features

- Prolongs the life of the road
- Prevents further deterioration
- Enhances skid resistance
- Adds strength to the pavement
- Provides a moisture barrier
- Corrects existing pavement damage
- Saves money

Front cover: Chip seal close-up

Why chip seal the roads?

The Road Services Division provides safe travel by maintaining more than 1,750 centerline miles of roadways and over 180 bridges in King County. We are committed to preventative maintenance and preservation of roadways in unincorporated King County.

With limited available funds, chip sealing is a short-term, cost-effective surface treatment solution that helps preserve the overall condition of the roads.

Asphalt deteriorates over time, due to the effects of weather, axle loads, average daily traffic, and utility work. As part of our maintenance program, roads are chip sealed to provide added protection. A chip seal surface provides a coat that seals the road and enhances skid and weather resistance.

How does chip sealing affect motorists?

We appreciate your patience while the chip seal work is underway. Crews will make every attempt to work efficiently and effectively.

After a roadway has received a chip seal application, motorists are advised to obey the 20 mile-per-hour speed limit for a few days. Driving slowly ensures that the rock chips adhere to the roadway. Higher speeds can cause rock chips to fly and fresh asphalt to splatter. Street parking will be affected during the application process.

How does the chip seal process work?

There are several steps in the chip seal process. Please note that chip seal is only applied under ideal weather conditions.



Step One - Prep work: Crews seal cracks, repair the road surface, and remove debris.



Step Two - Chip seal application: A hot, liquid asphalt emulsion is sprayed onto the road surface.



Step Three - Aggregate application: A layer of rock chips is applied.



Step Four - Rolling: A roller passes several times to produce a tighter chip seal and any debris is swept away.



Contact information

If you have questions or concerns about chip sealing, please contact Marnie McGrath, King County Department of Transportation, Community Relations, at 206-684-1142.