

## Surface Treatment Projects FAQ

### Q. Why was my street chosen?

A. Though your street is in basically sound condition, it needs routine maintenance to protect it. Surface treatments are effective for 7-10 years, stops water from seeping through the surface and damaging the pavement and road base. When placed on worn or “polished” roadway surfaces, surface treatments also help to provide a degree of skid resistance. It costs less to apply surface treatments to the street surface than to fix the street base if it is damaged.

### Q. What Surface Treatments are used by the City of Midland?

The City of Midland uses primarily three different forms of surface treatments. Chip Seal, Slurry Seal and Microsurfacing. The City also uses a two course surface treatment called Cape Seal which is a combination of chip seal as the base layer and either slurry seal or microsurfacing as a finish surface.

### Q. What is a chip seal?

A . A chip seal is a coating of liquid asphalt and rock chips applied to the existing roadway to extend the life of the pavement. There are three steps in the chip sealing process - applying the asphalt layer, putting down the aggregate rock chips and sweeping up excess rock chips. While the surface can be driven or walked on at any stage, after the process is complete it takes about two weeks before the chip seal is firmly set. The sweeping of the excess stone chips is done usually within 24 hours based upon weather and the availability of work crews.

### Q. What is a slurry seal?

A . Slurry seal is a thin asphalt overlay / seal coat that will fill in small cracks and surface imperfections to give the roadway a uniform color and texture. The principal materials used to create slurry seal are aggregate, asphalt emulsion and fillers, which are mixed together according to a laboratory’s design mix formula. Unlike “chip seal”, there are no loose stones or dust to contend with. There is however, a residue (sandy grit) that remains loose on the finished surface, but it dissipates in a short period of time. Slurry seal can take up to six hours to cure before the street is reopened to traffic.

### Q. What is Micro-Surfacing?

A . Micro-Surfacing is a polymer-modified mixture of aggregate, asphalt emulsion, water and mineral fillers almost identical to slurry seal other than the mixture cures due to chemical reaction as opposed to water evaporation. Micro-Surfacing is usually used on higher traffic major streets. Once applied, the street surface can be opened usually in one to three hours.

### Q. What if it rains?

A. Surface treatments must go on a dry surface. If it is raining or if rain is in the forecast, crews will schedule the work for another day. We ask that you make sure any sprinklers are turned off beginning at midnight the night before the surface treatment work is scheduled.

**Q. How will I know when the work will begin?**

A. You will receive a notice at your door a day ahead of time. If it does rain, work may be delayed. Temporary “No Parking” signs will also be posted in the areas where the work will be occurring. For a printout of the anticipated work schedule visit the Engineering Department’s construction updates page at:

<http://www.midland-mi.org/construction/constructionUpdates.php>

**Q. What about parking my car?**

A. Please move your car off the street prior to the time the surface treatment process begins. Please also let family, friends and delivery people know not to park their vehicle on the street during that time period. If a vehicle is left on the street, we try to find the owner, but delays cost tax money. **Therefore, cars not moved by the time the work begins will be towed at the owner’s expense.** If your car is towed, contact the Midland Police Department at 989-631-5716.

**Q. How will I know when the work is completed?**

A. The street will be open for traffic and parking after the surface treatment process is complete. All loose rock chips will be gone, the temporary “No Parking” signs will be removed and the pavement will have a new, black asphalt coating.

**For more information, contact the  
Engineering Department at 989-837-3348.**

***Thank you for your cooperation!***