



Helpful tips on how to care for your new driveway and make for a longer lasting driveway

Since the liquid asphalt in blacktop needs time to harden and cure, usually 6-12 months, your driveway will remain soft and pliable until then. You may walk on your new driveway immediately, but keep automobile traffic off it for a least 3 full days and longer in hotter temperatures. Even after the blacktop has cured, do not expect it to be as hard as concrete.

Your new blacktop will soften and harden as temperatures rise and fall. Watering down your driveway with a hose on hot days will cool and temporarily harden the blacktop. This is helpful but not mandatory. If soapsuds should appear, do not be alarmed. This is a reaction between the diesel fuel found in blacktop and a high chlorine content found in some city water. Although every effort is made to avoid puddles in your driveway, some small ones are inevitable depending on the natural slope and drainage of your ground.

Automobiles starting out too fast, pulling in too quickly and just plain driving too fast scar blacktop. During the first 6-12 months while your driveway is curing, do not park in the same spot every time. Do not turn your steering wheel back and forth when your car is not moving. Avoid using jack stands or car ramps unless a piece of plywood is placed under them to help distribute the weight. Excessive weight from large heavy vehicles can depress your new blacktop. Keep oil trucks, concrete trucks and any other heavy trucks off your new driveway.

When storing campers for long periods of time, place a piece of plywood under the tongue jack and under the tires. Bicycle and motorcycle kickstands exert weight on concentrated areas and will create holes and depressions in your new driveway. Especially watch out for those pointy high heels during the warm months when your driveway is new.

The edges are the weakest part of your driveway due to the lack of side support. Avoid driving on the edges since they will crack and crumble in time. We suggest building up the sides of your driveway with topsoil. This will support the edges and enhance the appearance after grass is grown.

Your driveway may look smoother in some areas than in others because of the makeup of blacktop. Blacktop has various sizes of stone, sand, liquid asphalt, and other ingredients, which cause a varied texture of the surface. In addition, blacktop areas that have been raked and spread with hand tools may appear different in texture from those spread by machine.

Avoid gasoline, oil, antifreeze, power steering and transmission fluid spills and leaks. These will dilute the liquid asphalt in your blacktop. Any hole left by these spills should be filled with a cold patch. Any hairline cracks that may have developed over the winter due to the contraction and expansion of

the ground should be filled with crack filler. These products can be purchased from your local building supply store.

To preserve your new driveway, you may choose to seal coat it after it has been paved. Sealing too soon, however, may cause damage to your new drive. The best time to seal is 6-12 months after it has been paved, and every 2-3 years thereafter. Because blacktop is naturally porous, water can seep into and through the paving. This not only causes deterioration, but results in ridges and upheaval due to frost and freezing. Blacktop is also softened and broken up by gasoline, lube oil, grease, road salts and antifreeze, which drip from cars. Sealer protects blacktop with a coating that is impervious to these harmful elements.