



**Chip seal** is a preventive maintenance treatment that preserves the road surface and extends the life of the road. The **road will remain open** during the work; however, speeds may be reduced and **traffic delays** may occur.

As a gravel road upgrade treatment, chip sealing is also a **cost effective** surfacing option for roads carrying less than about 1,000 vehicles a day, making it a good choice for many rural local roads.

The following information describes a typical chip seal process and how you can help it along after it is finished.

Before starting the chip seal, county crews will:

- Trim **vegetation** to ensure adequate road width and remove any vegetation that potentially would obstruct equipment.
- Clean or establish **roadside ditches**. The ditches will be hydroseeded at the appropriate time to reestablish vegetation necessary for stormwater filtration.
- Repair or replace **driveway tiles**. Existing residential driveways will be preserved. However, other property accesses may be removed if the tile is less than an 8-inch diameter, if it does not drain properly or if it cannot be maintained.



During the chip seal process, separate **layers of rock and emulsified asphalt** are placed on the road to create a hard driving surface.

- While the oil is still hot, a chip spreader follows immediately behind the applicator truck and applies the chips to the road. Each layer, or shot, is allowed to cure for 24 hours so it becomes a firm surface.
- The road is swept to remove the loose rock.
- The final shot may be applied weeks after the first shot.
- The road is then usually swept again, but a small amount of loose rock may still be present for some time after that.

The chip seal work usually **begins in July** and is completed by the end of August. Initially, the road looks light gray. As motorists drive on the rock and the road is exposed to normal weather conditions, it becomes more firm. After a few months the surface takes on a darker appearance, looking very similar to a hot mix asphalt surface.

Unfortunately, the surface remains "tender" during this period and can be damaged by vehicles spinning their wheels. If this occurs, please report the damage to our office.

