



OVERVIEW

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is committed to providing a safe, smooth road system in the most cost-effective manner possible. Chip seal is one treatment RCKC uses as part of a total asset management approach of applying the right treatment on the right roadway at the right time. Using the right "mix of fixes" to maintain a roadway lengthens the effective life of that roadway and reduces the total cost of the pavement over its useful life.

Chip seal treated roads are safe to drive on and are environmentally friendly. A chip seal treatment upon application, may appear to be a nuisance to the traveling public, but over time the treated surface improves. There is no reason to avoid them.

The temperature of asphalt emulsion used for chip seal can exceed 165 degrees. Do not walk barefoot or allow pets on freshly treated chip sealed roads.

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CONNECT WITH US



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CHIP SEAL AND FOG SEAL BASICS

Preserving Our Roads for the Future



**YOUR LOCAL ROAD
PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1909**



WHAT IS CHIP SEAL?

Chip seal is a preventive maintenance treatment in which the pavement is sprayed with asphalt emulsion, then immediately covered with aggregate. The construction materials used in chip seal operations are the same materials used to construct hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavements. A chip seal treatment is used to seal and preserve the wearing surface of an HMA pavement. This treatment can extend the life of a road by 10 years as it prevents oxidization of the pavement surface and moisture infiltration, which reduces cracking and potholes.

WHAT IS FOG SEAL?

Fog seal is chip seal's best friend. Fog seal is a light application of asphalt emulsion diluted with water and applied to the surface of a recent chip seal to lock in the stones. A fog seal treatment assists in reducing loose stone and dust associated with a fresh chip seal treatment. This also creates a black surface that closely resembles new HMA. The dark coloring assists with pavement marking contrast and even absorbs heat in the winter which assists with the melting of snow and ice in winter operations.



THE PROCESS

When preparing an area for chip seal shoulder work may occur and a sweeper will go through the area. The centerline of the road is sprayed with emulsion first (pictured above) In this process a roller will immediately go over the aggregate to orient the stones to its flattest side. Rollers, street sweeping, and traffic flow after a chip seal assists in embedding the aggregate. The RCKC continues to monitor the quality of our product and the application rates for both the asphalt emulsion and the aggregate to reduce stone loss.