



8 Crucial Tactics for Asphalt Pavement Protection

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Your asphalt pavement protection plan: How, Why, and When of asphalt pavement care.

You've invested in a new asphalt parking lot or driveway for your business or home. Now, you want it to last. By following this protection plan, you will prolong the life of the asphalt pavement.

1. Wait at least 3 full days before allowing traffic on the new asphalt.

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

2. Water down your driveway or parking lot on hot days to cool and temporarily harden the asphalt.

- Asphalt softens and hardens as temperatures rise and fall. Watering it down 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.

3. Don't park in the same spot during the first 6-12 months while your driveway or parking lot is curing.

- Do not turn your steering wheel back and forth when your car is not moving. Take your time pulling in and out of the driveway or parking lot, as not to scar the asphalt pavement.



4. Excessive weight from large heavy vehicles can depress your new asphalt.

- Keep heavy trucks and machinery off your new pavement. When storing campers for long periods of time, place a piece of plywood under the tongue jack and also under the tires.
- Avoid using jack stands or car ramps unless a piece of plywood is placed under them to help distribute the weight.

5. Avoid driving on the edges of the pavement, if they lack support.

- We suggest building up the sides of your driveway with topsoil, or for a parking lot, a curb can be added. This will support the edges and enhance the appearance.

6. Your asphalt may look smoother in some areas than in others.

- Asphalt has various sizes of stone, sand, and aggregates, which cause a varied texture of the surface.
- Also, areas that have been raked and spread with hand tools may appear different in texture from those spread by machine.

7. Avoid gasoline, oil, anti-freeze, and other fluid spills and leaks.

- These will dilute the liquid asphalt in your blacktop. Any hole left by these spills should be filled with 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.



8. Seal coat your asphalt parking lot or driveway 6-12 months after it has been paved.

- This will help preserve your new asphalt pavement. Sealing too soon, however, may cause damage to the pavement.
- Because asphalt is porous, water can seep into and through the paving. This not only causes deterioration, but also results in ridges and upheaval due to frost and freezing.
- Asphalt is also softened and broken up by gasoline, lube oil, grease, road salts, and anti-freeze, which drip from cars.
- Sealer protects asphalt with a coating that is impervious to these harmful elements. Unprotected driveways remain porous, dry out, become rough, and lose their life rapidly.

Following this care plan will help protect and prolong the life of your new asphalt pavement. Wolf Paving stands behind its work, guaranteeing labor and materials for one year. For more information about protecting your new asphalt pavement, contact Wolf Paving.

From driveways to highways, Wolf Paving has built custom asphalt solutions throughout southwestern Wisconsin since 1941. Wolf Paving looks forward to putting its record of high quality and unparalleled customer satisfaction to work for you.



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