

ASPHALT PAVING PROJECT PLANNING GUIDE

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STARTING YOUR PROJECT

When planning your asphalt paving project, it's best to be informed and prepared. Our **Asphalt Paving Project Planning Guide** covers the five main steps of preparation everyone should take before your project begins.

- Evaluating The Current State Of Your Asphalt
- Researching The Repair Options Available for Asphalt
- Understanding The Different Types Of Asphalt
- Budgeting For Your Asphalt Project
- Contacting The Experts For A Quote On Your Project



EVALUATING THE CURRENT STATE OF YOUR ASPHALT

Before you do anything else, go outside and take a good look at the current state of your asphalt pavement. Look for problem areas and take note of areas of concern for your driveway, roadway or parking lot.

Too Much Standing Water May Mean Drainage Problems. Standing water may not seem like a big deal, but an overabundance of water can actually lead to eroding asphalt. If too much water gets under the pavement it can even compromise the subbase.

Look for any visible damage, such as:

- Cracks larger than ¼ inch
- Potholes
- Heaving
- Oil stains
- Faded paint



THINGS YOUR ESTIMATOR WILL BE LOOKING FOR ON YOUR PROPERTY

- Existing problem areas
- Any overhead obstructions or traversing of existing pavement
- How much traffic and weight the pavement will be expected to handle regularly
- If your mailbox area is paved
- Electrical or private lines
- Obstructions, such as bushes or shrubbery, that will need to be removed

All of these things will have an impact on the size and scope of your asphalt paving project.



RESEARCHING THE REPAIR OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR ASPHALT

As you evaluate the best way to proceed with your asphalt project, understanding the asphalt repair process and what will be involved is important. As such, it is important to familiarize yourself with different methods of asphalt repair because there might be more than one answer to your asphalt problem.

METHODS TO KNOW

Crack Filling - One of the biggest mistakes people make when it comes to cracks in their pavement, is waiting too long to get them filled. With time, cracks will only grow bigger. What was once a small crack can quickly become alligator cracking or even a pothole, compromising the integrity of your entire pavement surface.

To appropriately repair asphalt cracks, your contractor will use a sealant. The sealant will adhere to the asphalt, keeping water and other natural elements from penetrating and exploiting the weakness in your pavement.





Sealcoating - Sealcoating will protect asphalt from fuel, oil, water, weather and traffic wear. It's a quick and easy way to help prevent damage and should be applied every 3-5 years, always in the warmer months. Sealcoating is not done to new asphalt pavement, but used to extend the lifespan of old pavement.

Sealcoating leaves your pavement looking sleek and dark. This is the perfect solution if you are looking for a simple way to improve the appearance of your asphalt and protect it from the elements.

Milling - Milling is the process of removing the top layer of asphalt without disturbing the underlying subbase. This is an excellent option if your subbase is perfectly functional and only the top layer of your asphalt needs repair work. Milling can be completed at a fraction of the cost of a full reconstruction because only the top layer is removed and replaced. The entire process can be completed in a relatively short period of time.



Patching - Patching is the process of filling in potholes. There are slight variations in patching methods but the general idea follows these five steps:

Step 1: Removal of the damaged pavement - Different tools will be used depending on the size and nature of the damage.

Step 2: Cleaning the Pothole - All debris must be removed, occasionally there may even be plant life poking through which must be disposed of from the root.

Step 3: Repairing the Foundation - Asphalt needs a sturdy base, otherwise, you'll just have more problems in the future.

Step 4: Filling the Pothole - The type of asphalt used to fill potholes will depend on the weather and size of the pothole, typically hot or cold mix asphalt will be used.

Step 5: Tamping - The pothole will be slightly overfilled and then must be tamped down. Depending on the size of the pothole, different machinery or tools can be used for this.



Overlay - An asphalt overlay can be thought of as a large patching job over a stretch of asphalt. Overlay is typically used when existing asphalt is showing some signs of cracking and potholes, but not quite enough damage to warrant a full replacement.

New Installation - A fresh start for your pavement. The installation of a brand new asphalt pavement follows this process.

Step 1: Demolition and Removal - It begins with removing whatever the existing surface is and disposing of it. If the existing surface is asphalt, it can be recycled and used in future asphalt surfaces, which will save you money on material.

Step 2: Grading and Sloping - Before laying anything down the surface must be graded, this will allow water to drain away from the pavement and into a grassy area. Your contractors may also need to re-shape the area to give it a sloping surface which will help direct the water away.

Step 3: Prepping the Sub Base - The sub base is the bottom most layer, it will be supporting your new pavement.

Step 4: Adding the Binder Layer - The binder layer is a large aggregate mixed with oil, which makes it strong and durable.

Step 5: Installing the New Asphalt Surface - The new asphalt is laid.

Step 6: The Final Roll - Once the asphalt has been laid, the surface will be smoothed and compacted.



UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASPHALT

There are a lot of options available to you. Make sure you look into the different types of asphalt to be sure you'll get the right one for your project.

Porous Asphalt - The term "porous" refers to the fact that there are tiny holes in the asphalt material which provide an environmentally friendly way to manage stormwater. The water travels into the ground beneath where it undergoes natural water cleansing processes. Porous asphalt is an environmentally friendly paving solution and as an EPA best practice paving, using it for your next project can even offer your business tax benefits.

Cold Mix Asphalt - Cold mix asphalt is good for filling potholes in winter because it stays soft in cold temperatures and repels water. It will drive water out of the pothole and adhere to the surface underneath. The manufacturing process is also simpler than the hot mix process.

Hot Mix Asphalt - Hot mix asphalt (HMA) is the designation given to asphalt mixtures that are heated and poured at temperatures between 300 and 350 degrees Fahrenheit. It is the most commonly used asphalt.

Custom Mixes - Wolf Paving owns its own asphalt production plant. We have more than 20 custom mixes of asphalt blends, with plenty of specialty mixes to ensure we have the right kind of asphalt for every application.



BUDGETING FOR YOUR ASPHALT PROJECT

If you're a business owner you should leave room in your budget for a pavement restoration project every 10 years. You may not need the work done every 10 years, but it's best to layout your budget as if you would, just in case.

If you have a large parking lot, consider phasing repairs over a 1-2 year window so it won't be as disruptive to your customers or tenants.

Preventative Maintenance

The easiest way to avoid costly projects is to do smaller maintenance projects that will keep your asphalt from needing big repairs in the first place. Quick, inexpensive maintenance includes:

- Regular sealcoating
- Seasonal street sweeping
- Crack sealing when cracks first appear



CONTACT THE EXPERTS FOR A QUOTE ON YOUR PROJECT

Taking the time to read up on paving best practices and familiarizing yourself with industry terminology and processes can save you time in the long run. Being informed can give you the confidence to know the important questions to ask a contractor.

Our focus is on keeping you informed and helping you make the best choices for your unique project. Call Wolf Paving today. For the Milwaukee area, call us at **262-965-2121**. For the Madison area, call us at **608-249-7931**.

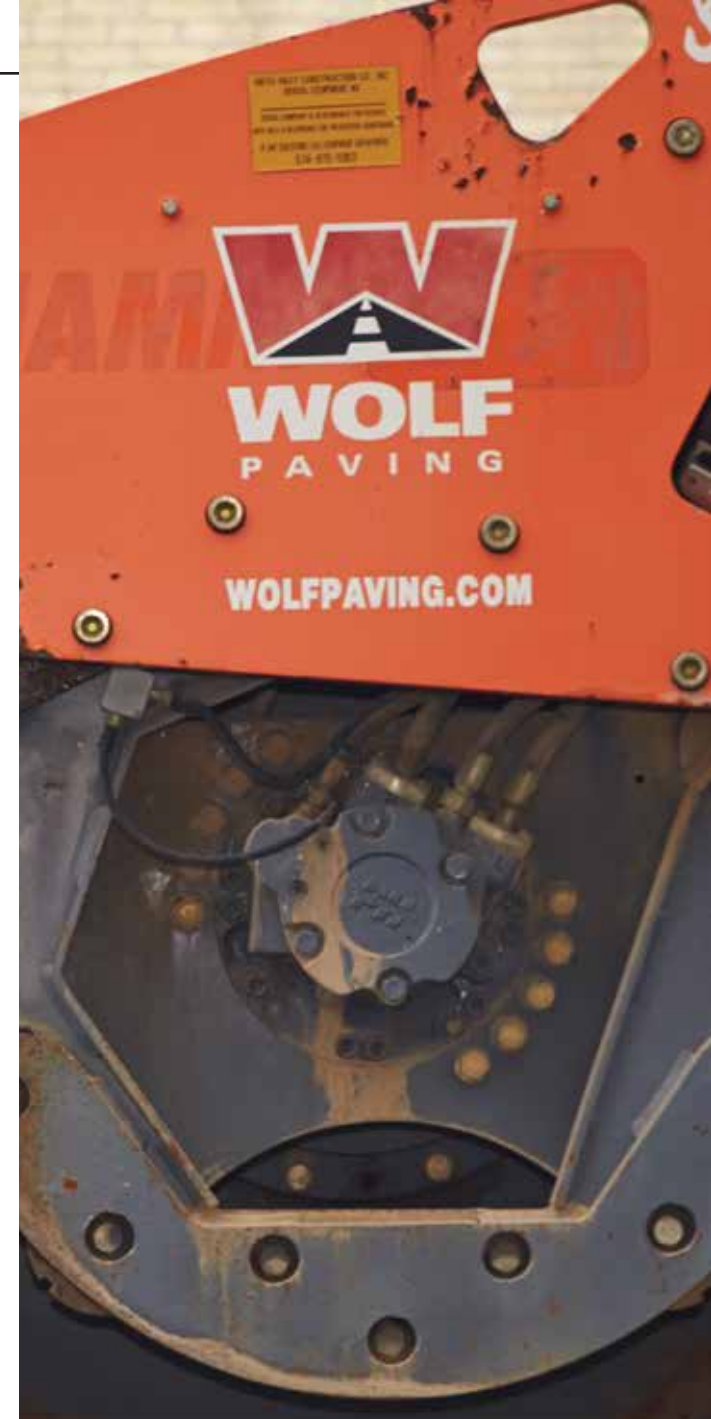
All the best!



Jacob Mrugacz
President

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