



## Slurry Seal Overview and FAQs

### What is a slurry seal?

Slurry seal is a petroleum-based emulsion product, mixed with sand and fine black aggregate rock. It is blended on-site in a large truck, and then applied evenly across the entire roadway surface of an asphalt street. The slurry seal is typically 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch thick.

### What does slurry sealing do?

Streets deteriorate over time and exposure to weather and the more extreme the weather, the more quickly streets degrade. Slurry seal, because of its composition and strengthening additives, works to counter the effects of weather and extend the life of the road. In addition to providing a new wearing surface, slurry seal will also correct minor roadway defects that have appeared over time.

### What happens before the streets are slurry sealed?

Before streets can be slurry sealed, base repairs and crack sealing will typically be done by crews with specific expertise in those areas.

Digouts: Localized failing areas in the pavement will be dug up and replaced. Base repairs are typically small (around 4 feet or so). The daylong process involves sawing, cutting and removing old pavement, repairing any unstable subgrade or baserock (if needed), then paving over the repaired area. Temporary "street openings" result during this process, so be sure to watch for the cones and avoid the area. You can usually have access to your driveway unless repairs are directly in front of it. "No parking" signs

will typically be posted at least 48 hours in advance so crews can work and prevent damage to cars.

Crack sealing: Cracks in the roadway will be covered with an asphalt material to help seal the road surface. Cracks typically need to be wider than 3/8 of an inch to qualify for sealing. Cracks will be cleaned out with compressed air and the hot material will be poured into the cracks. The process only takes a few minutes per crack and will not impact access to your home. The process is relatively quick and the newly sealed crack can be crossed in a matter of minutes; however, the recommended waiting period is one hour before crossing to ensure sufficient cooling and curing has taken place. Hot days typically require longer waiting periods as the material remains soft for a longer time and can stick to shoes and create tire tracks.

If at all possible, we ask you to avoid the areas to ensure the optimal outcome for street repairs. Digouts and crack sealing typically take place a few weeks prior to slurry sealing.

## What can I expect prior to and during the slurry seal process?

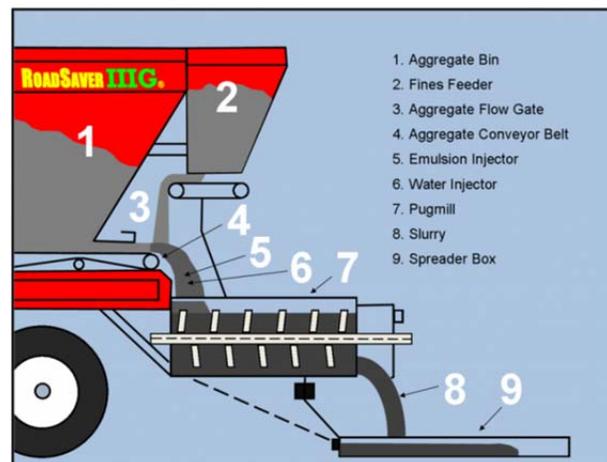
Public outreach through door hangers, as well as social media, will typically occur a week or two prior to the start of work.

48-hour notices will be sent prior to start of work and no parking signs will be installed on barricades on the street. The 48-hour notice will typically have the contact name and number for the Contractor if special arrangements for access need to be made.

All vehicles and other objects must be removed from the street. This includes trailers, garbage cans, basketball hoops, etc.

The morning of the slurry seal, the street is swept with a mechanical street sweeper and any weeds are removed.

The slurry paver will place a liquid mixture of asphalt on the section of pavement; sand and strengthening additives are poured on to the road surface, which typically affects only one half of the street at any given time.



While motorists can drive on the slurry seal application a few hours after it has been applied, it takes a couple of weeks to fully cure. During the first few hours while the slurry cures, motorists, pedestrians, and pets must stay out of the slurry seal so as not to ruin the application and to avoid getting the seal on vehicles, shoes, and paws.

Once the slurry has cured enough for traffic loading, it will be reopened to traffic. At this time, the slurry is very tender. Any sharp turns and turning of vehicle wheels while not moving will tear the surface. Please be sure to avoid making sharp turns or turning your wheels while not moving to keep the street looking its best. It will take several days before sharp turns won't cause tears in the surface of the slurry seal.

Street sweeping will then typically take place within about a week. Please be sure to remove objects from the street so the sweepers can pick up the loose slurry materials.

Within a few weeks after the slurry has been placed and has cured enough, traffic striping will be installed.

As the slurry seal cures it will turn from brown to black and the street typically has a sandy or gravel-like coating. This sand is picked up by street sweepers once the curing process is complete. Please check the City's sweeping schedule the first month after slurry seal placement and be sure to clear the street so the sweepers can pick up these loose materials.

*Note – Slurry seal placed on neighborhood streets tends to get more scuffing and blemishes (particularly adjacent to driveway approaches) than through streets due to the sharp turning typically being done as a resident exits their driveway. These marks are typically surficial and do not constitute a slurry failure.*

## How will the slurry seal application affect me?

**Your street will be closed for one day, from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** You will not have vehicle access to your driveway during that time, though pedestrian access will be maintained. Slurry seal takes several hours to dry. During that time, motorists, pedestrians, and pets must stay out of the slurry seal so as not to ruin the application and to avoid getting slurry seal on vehicles, shoes, and paws. It will take longer to cure in shaded areas.

You must **avoid outdoor water use** if it causes water to flow onto the street. Water will hinder the slurry seal curing process. If you water your lawn or wash your car on slurry seal day, please make sure the water does not flow onto the street.

## What if I need to drive somewhere?

Park your vehicle on a nearby street that is not being slurry sealed. Check the area signage to plan your route and where to park. The streets are phased to provide room for parking on adjacent streets.

## What if there is an emergency?

Should an emergency arise, emergency vehicles will be given access to the street.

## What about garbage pickup, mail delivery, or other expected deliveries from service providers?

All work is coordinated with the postal service, garbage haulers and other service providers by the Contractor and/or the City. In most cases, you will not experience any service interruptions. Put garbage cans out early on your regular collection day, preferably at the edge of your driveway rather than in the street. Garbage haulers and mail carriers will work around the slurry seal application to provide service, however, it may not be at the usual time of day.

## What if it rains?

Light rain or passing showers may not delay the slurry seal application, however, slurry seal cannot be applied in heavy or steady rain. If we have or anticipate significant rainfall, the slurry seal application may be postponed to another day.

## What can I do to help make the work go smoothly?

Plan ahead and anticipate parking issues and how you will get in and out. Park on nearby, unaffected streets if necessary. Try to reschedule any visitors or deliveries.

Keep children and pets away from the street while treatment is being performed. Several large pieces of contractor equipment are involved.

Whenever possible, avoid construction areas and use alternate access routes.

Check your shoes before walking into your house. The loose rocks can be picked up and tracked onto carpets or scratch wood floors.

Respect construction signs, cones, and barricades. Do not drive into areas that are coned/barricaded off.

Drive slowly; the pavement can be slippery because of loose gravel or sand. Do not drive on the treated streets until the lanes have been reopened to traffic.

Warn your children to be careful while riding their bicycles. It would be preferable if they refrained from riding altogether until the loose gravel/sand is swept up.

Continue to park your car off your street or cover it until the initial sweeping is completed. Loose gravel or slurry mix thrown up by speeding vehicles could damage your car's paint.

*We realize this surface treatment is an inconvenience to residents, but the alternative of doing nothing will result in accelerated pavement deterioration that may lead to costlier and less effective methods of repair. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we make these important improvements in your neighborhood.*