

FAQ Surface Dressing

Surface Dressing is a planned preventative maintenance activity which is used to extend the life of the road and improve the skid resistance of the 4,202km of road network we maintain. This is a less expensive process than rebuilding work and is designed to prolong a road's lifespan by up to 10 years.

When Is Surface Dressing Carried Out?

Surface dressing is carried out between May – August each year, weather conditions permitting.

What Does The Surface Dressing Process Involve?

Where a road surface has been identified for dressing treatment, we will fix any faults and potholes first, then spray the surface with liquid bitumen and cover it with stone chippings. The dressing is then rolled, which together with the actions of slow-moving traffic, embeds the stone chippings into the surface. We will periodically revisit the site to sweep the surface to remove excess stones following dressing the surface

Why can't roads just be re-surfaced?

Re-surfacing is used when the surface or sub-surface layers of the road have deteriorated to a point that they need to be replaced, we remove the existing layer and lay a new surface. This is expensive and disruptive to traffic but will normally last at least 15 years.

How do we identify which roads require surface dressing?

Annual Scottish Road Condition and Maintenance Surveys (SRCMS) are carried out by a Scottish Government contractor on behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Road scans collect data on the condition of the roads, the data is analysed and used to identify sections of the road network for planned maintenance; identify sections which should be investigated to for future maintenance and identify those sections which are generally in a good state of repair.

How long will the works take?

Generally, it will take a day to complete a section of surface dressing. However, sweeping of the section to remove loose stones will continue periodically for up to a month, followed by the replacement of any road markings and cats' eyes.

Why are there loose chippings left after road has been done and how do you remove them?

It is normal that there will be loose chippings on the road after the surface dressing has been completed as these chips are used to ensure that all the bitumen is covered.

After the bitumen has been laid, the chips are embedded as traffic runs on the new surface bed at the advisory speed limit, Loose chippings are swept up approximately 2-3 days after the works have been completed. Further sweeps of the section will be carried out approximately 7 and 30 days after the work to remove further loose chippings from the road. Excess chipping loss is prevented on A and B Class roads by using Secure Chip. Secure chip is an additional layer of bitumen material which is sprayed on top of the road surface.

Dumfries and Galloway Council follows the Roads Surface Treatment Association Code of Practice for the sweeping regime, However sweeps may be delayed under certain circumstances such as extreme weather conditions.

Why are the roads closed during surface dressing?

It is necessary to close roads during surface dressing to ensure the safety of the workforce by removing public vehicles from the works area.

Intentions to close a road for surface dressing are displayed in local newspapers and social media, and also detailed on Tell Me Scotland, a portal for accessing public information notices by Local Authorities across Scotland [Public Information Notices for Scotland | Tellmesotland](#)

Advance warning signage will be placed on site prior to works starting and when required, letter drops to the public will also be arranged.

I require access to my property 24 hours per day. Are provisions in place for this?

We do try to work with residents to accommodate their access requirements where possible. However, due to the nature of the work involved, there will be short periods when access cannot be maintained. We would ask residents who have particular access requirements, to please speak to the team on site.

How is the damage risk to vehicles and property minimised?

Warning signs are erected along with 20mph advisory speed limit signs. Drivers are urged to keep to the advised speed limit for safety reasons and in order to prevent damage to their own vehicle.

If the event that damage has occurred to your property or vehicle, as a result of road surfacing works, the procedure for [Making an insurance claim](#) should be followed.

How You Can Help Us

With your help we can ensure that any road surface dressing works are completed smoothly and with minimal disruption to residents and road users.

You can help us by following this advice: -

- Ensure vehicles are not parked on the road during the day whilst the work is in progress. The clearer the road, the quicker the job will be finished.
- Unless absolutely essential, please keep away from the work site to ensure your safety
- Please drive through the works slowly, keeping your distance, do not overtake and avoid turning or braking sharply.
- Check your shoes to make sure there is no bitumen to be transferred before entering your property or car

Please do not hesitate to contact the number below or alternatively speak to the team on site if you have any queries or concerns.

You can contact us on **030 3333 3000**