



# Roadways

Genesee County Road Commission  
211 W. Oakley Street, Flint, MI. 48503  
www.gcrc.org

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**Our mission** as the Genesee County Road Commission is to collectively provide and maintain a safe, cost-efficient and quality road system for the motorist of Genesee County.

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Visit us at: [www.gcrc.org](http://www.gcrc.org)

**"Chip Sealing"** is a common pavement preservation practice that extends pavement life and provides a good driving surface. While GCRC can chip seal a roadway for as little as \$35,000 per mile, it costs \$200,000 per mile for a 2" thick asphalt resurfacing, and over a \$1,000,000 per mile for total reconstruction. A chip seal treatment by itself could extend the life of the pavement by about 3-4 years. Since some Genesee County Road Commission residents may not be familiar with the chip seal construction method, this fact page answers some frequently asked questions.

### Description

Chip Sealing is a multi-stage process that begins after the imperfections in the roadway surface have been corrected and the surface has been swept and prepared. Chip seals consist of spraying a designed quantity of asphalt binder onto an existing pavement surface immediately followed by an aggregate chip spreader which applies a clean, uniform, even layer of single size cover aggregate over the binder. The cover aggregate is then physically rolled into the binder to achieve adequate bonding and embedment. Lastly, the chip seal surface is swept to remove excess aggregate and loose material from the roadway providing a safe pavement surface.

### Benefits

- Protects the Underlying Pavement Structure from Moisture Damage
- Seals Small Cracks and Imperfections
- Reduces Aging and Oxidation of Asphalt Surface
- Extends the Life Cycle of a Pavement
- Restores Friction to Roadway Surface
- Environmentally Friendly
- Polymer Modification Improves Early Chip Retention
- Polymer Modification Improves the Chip Seal's Flexibility

### **What issues affect a quality chip seal application?**

Since a roadway is rarely closed to traffic for the chip seal application, a smooth flow of traffic through the work area is required. Driving slowly, not turning sharply, or braking quickly or spinning tires is crucial for the fresh chip seal to properly set and cure.

Until a road is broomed, the lower, 35 mph speed limit needs to be observed so chip rock isn't dislodged, and passing vehicles aren't damaged by "flying" chip rock. During the chip seal process, from the time the gravel is placed on the road to when the excess is swept away. By driving 35 mph, you protect your vehicle from unnecessary damage that can be caused by the sprayed asphalt and loose gravel. The slower speed also decreases the chance of damage from rocks which may be thrown up from other vehicles.

Traffic moving at higher speeds can create dust, limit visibility, and cause an inconvenience to local residents. Increased speeds can also cause gravel to break loose from a fresh chip seal creating the risk of flying rock. Rocks thrown from your tires may crack or break a nearby vehicle's windshield. Flying rocks might also injure pedestrians and bicycle riders.

### **Please be patient.**

Traveling at the posted construction speed limit in construction zones will ensure your safety and the safety of others including the county road crews. It's also the law. Traffic fines are doubled in construction zones. Obeying warning signs and flagging personnel instructions benefits all those who share the roadway with you, too.



**REPORT A POTHOLE**  
*We'll fix it fast!*

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