

Pavement Coatings and Street Sweeping

So, you've just had your streets slurry or seal coated, or they will be soon. Following are a few items of interest that will be good to know and will help you understand how this process will effect the associations sweeping service.

A good quality pavement coating is a good way to extend the life of one of the associations most expensive assets. As a street sweeping contractor we applaud and encourage this type of forward thinking. However a few items will effect the sweeping service in the short term.

1st: We always appreciate being notified when asphalt work will be done so we can avoid making a needless trip.

2nd: In order for the product to properly cure, we like to stay off the newly slurry/sealed streets for about two weeks. Cars may drive on the street much sooner (normally the same day), however the carbide drag shoes on street sweepers can scratch new slurry seal that is not fully hardened.

3rd: Some asphalt coating operations produce quite a bit of excess sand. This sand will also continue to "come up" over many weeks. We have encountered projects where the sand is considerably beyond what a sweeper should do on a maintenance contract. Luckily this is rare and we would contact the property manager to work out a solution.

4th: The most likely opportunity for a complaint regarding sweeping is immediately after an asphalt coating is applied. As you know, when the steel gutter brooms dig the debris out of the gutter, they literally throw the debris onto the streets. It then sits there for about one second before being sucked up into the sweepers hopper.

If the debris happens to be wet (most of the time) it will leave a stain on the street.

Now the stains left on an old, faded gray street may or may not be very visible. However on the new coated, shiny black surface the stains will really stand out.

It's important to remember that it's the **same** debris, **same** sweeper and **same** driver. Yet a new pavement coating will many times generate **new** concerns regarding sweeping.

If a sweep is missed to accommodate the coating operation, there will be more than the normal amount of debris for the first sweep back on schedule, adding even more stain potential.

Staining can be a problem for both new and old asphalt. Fortunately, virtually all staining is the result of water (and its resulting mud & algae) in the gutters. For those interested, water control for selected areas or residents can have great results. Our handout "Would You Like a Cleaner Street?" addresses this further as well as other handouts available on www.streetsweeper.com



Pavement stain waiting to happen!



Gutter Broom at work.



Stain from water in the gutter.



Same street with no water in the gutter.