

# Plane and inlay or full resurfacing FAQs

## What is plane and inlay?

Plane and inlay, also known as full resurfacing, is when the old road surface is removed and replaced.

## Why would we use it?

This is used when the surface or other layers of the road have deteriorated to a point where they need to be replaced.

## How will I know if my street is going to be resurfaced?

Signs are put up to say that the work will take place on the roads. The council will also send you a notification letter in advance of work starting. This will include:

- how you can access your property during the works
- if any road closures or diversions are needed
- what the expected start and finish dates are
- what the site working hours will be
- what type of work we will carry out
- what will change or improve.

Signs will be put up explaining what is going on, with all the key information and any relevant contact details. If the work is on a key travel route in the borough, work may be planned to take place overnight (8pm-6am). All this information will be on the signs. For the latest information on programmes for works please visit <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/roadworks-and-road-maintenance/>

## My family owns and parks several cars on the street. Will there still be space for us to park?

You will have to remove the vehicles if your street or its footways are being resurfaced. The letter you will receive will say when your vehicles will need to be off the road and for how long. We rely on people co-operating with us during the works. This helps us to avoid delays and extra expense. Tow away schemes are in operation during resurfacing schemes.

## Will I still be able to get to my driveway while the road is being resurfaced?

In most cases you will be able to use your drive. You may need to wait for the site team to move equipment so you can enter your drive. There are times during the resurfacing when it is unsafe to enter the site, at these times access will be prevented until it is safe. If in doubt please park in a safe location and speak to the site foreman who can provide approximate timings.

## Will it be noisy?

During daytime working hours noisy works will be undertaken between 8am-6pm. When works have to be undertaken at nights noisy works will start at 8pm and will finish by midnight. After this time works will still continue through the night but this will be non-noisy work. Site supervisors will take noise reading throughout the night to make sure levels are within the required threshold. If you have concerns regarding the noise levels please speak to the site Supervisor.

## The process

**Preparation:** The old road surface is removed by a process known as 'planing' or milling where a large machine with a rotating drum covered in teeth chews off the old surface. This process is noisy and generates quite a lot of dust but it is fast and, in the case of night works, can usually be completed before midnight. Sometimes only the surface layer is removed (30-40mm) but if the damage to the surface is deeper then more of the existing road will be removed in this way. The planed surface is cleaned and sprayed with bitumen to help the new surface stick to it.

**Laying:** The new asphalt is laid at a high temperature and so is brought to site in insulated lorries. There it is fed into a paving machine which lays a controlled thickness of the chosen material, this is then rolled to compact it and give an even surface.

**Aftercare:** Once the material has cooled the road can be reopened to traffic. The white lines can be replaced before the road is reopened to traffic although, for operational reasons, they are sometimes replaced as a separate operation shortly after the resurfacing. In most cases, no other special aftercare is needed.

## Before and after - examples



The images above show an example where resurfacing was required. The road is heavily cracked because it had become old and brittle. Because of the nature of the road and the degree of cracking, the surface needed to be replaced, not just sealed.

## Resurfacing in operation



The above image shows a paving machine in operation. The hot material is delivered in insulated lorries – one is tipping into the front hopper of the machine in the picture – and the paver lays it in an even layer out of the back of the machine. Just visible in the corner of the photograph is one of the rollers used to compact the material after it is laid.

## Advice for motorists

- Be Safety Aware – follow signs and instructions from site operatives.

- Do not drive on newly laid surface until it has had time to dry. If in doubt operatives on site will provide guidance when the surface is suitable to use. If they have left the road will be suitable for use.
- Pay attention to advisory signs and please do not park on the road when signs request you not to.
- Drivers – please keep to the temporary speed limits and avoid sharp turns to allow the surface to stabilise.
- Check your shoes (and your pet's paws) before entering your home or car. Bitumen stains can be removed with cleaner.
- Access to businesses will be protected. Temporary floor covering is recommended in shops and offices.