

Surface Dressing FAQs

What is surface dressing?

Surface dressing is preventative work to significantly extend a road's life. It costs less than a tenth of full resurfacing and means that more money is available to invest in resurfacing where it is most needed.

Why do we use surface dressing treatments?

Surface dressing restores skid resistance, seals the road to prevent water getting in and reduces the likelihood of potholes. It involves spraying hot bitumen - a tar like substance - on to roads, applying chippings and then rolling the road. The chippings bed down as traffic uses the road.

How will I know if my street is going to be surface dressed?

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 are put up to say that the work will take place. We will also send you a notification letter in advance of work starting. They will also put up signs explaining what is going on and containing their contact details. Sometimes weather conditions prevent surface dressing. 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 surface dressed. 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. No one has a legal right to park on a road regardless of lines or boxes. Tow away schemes are in operation during surface dressing.

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 workman to move equipment so you can enter your drive. If in doubt please park in a safe location and speak to the site foreman who can provide approximate timings.

The process

Stage 1 – The road is sprayed with a single or double spray of bitumen.



Stage 2 – Stone chippings are then applied to the top of each layer



Stage 3 – The chippings are then rolled to press the stones. Once the road is open the moving traffic further embeds the chippings.



After Surfacing Dressing

We leave loose chippings on the road to protect the surface treatment. When the chippings have bedded in, we sweep the road two or three times to remove the excess chippings and refresh road markings if necessary. This can take up to two weeks.

Until we clear the chippings there is a 20mph speed limit on the road. This is to prevent damage to your vehicle and to maintain safety. The limit will be made clear with signage (as shown above).



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.
- Accesses to businesses will be protected. Temporary floor covering is recommended in shops and offices.