

# CHIP SEAL RESURFACING

*Please note:*

- As with all road work, please avoid roads when work is being done.
- Less traffic on the road is better for the new surface and allows crews to work safely and efficiently.
- After resurfacing is completed, there may be a bleed-through effect of oil rising to the surface of the road. If this occurs, rock dust will be added as a blotter.  
**Avoid bleed spots. If the oil appears wet, continue to drive slowly.**



## OVERVIEW:

**Duration, start to finish:** generally 6-10 weeks. Achieving a stable road base takes time and is essential for the best possible longevity of the new chip seal surface.

**Delays:** Weather is one of several unpredictable factors that delay road work; the duration listed above is a ballpark estimate.

**Dust:** Following road preparation, traffic will inevitably kick up some dust. Supervisors routinely evaluate roads to ensure blading occurs when needed. *Keep in mind that when the road is bladed, it stirs up a great deal of dust so it is best to do so only when absolutely necessary.*

## THE CHIP SEAL RESURFACING PROCESS:

*Step one*

**Preparation:** Resurfacing a chip seal road requires repairing and reinforcing the road base. Road base condition is the primary factor that determines the extent of preparation needed. Some roads require reclaiming (turning the road back into gravel) while others involve a less extreme approach. Recompacting the road base accounts for most of the chip seal resurfacing time frame.

**⚠️ Fresh Oil signs are typically placed on the side of the road 1 to 7 working days before the following steps begin.**

*Step two*

**Primer coat:** In this step, a computer-controlled distributor truck equipped with spray bars applies heated primer oil. This will be left to set for 24-72 hours to allow it to cure.

**Note: Vehicles should travel under 5 mph and avoid the middle of the road as much as possible following this step.** While the primer coat is on the roadway, the surface should be protected as much as possible; the less debris (grass clippings/newspaper/other foreign objects) on the road, the better the surface will receive the top coat.

*Step three*

**Top coat:** After the primer oil has cured for 24-72 hours, sealer oil will be applied using a computer-controlled distributor truck. Clean, crushed rock chips are then spread on the surface to adhere to the seal coat. Finally, a roller is used to embed the stone into the surface. The result is a hard, smooth road that is mostly oil-free.