

Care Guide

Asphalt surfaces

Key timings

2-3
days

Technically, once the surface is hardened it is ready for traffic however, we recommend that you try to keep off it for 2-3 days to allow the surface enough time to cool.

Driving and parking on the surface right away could cause tyre marks and other impressions you may find unsightly later on. Allowing the surface enough time to cool and harden will prevent most scarring from occurring.

6-12
months

Asphalt contains liquid that needs time to harden and cure. This curing process takes between 6-12 months, until then it will remain pliable and soft.

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The following tips will help keep your asphalt surface unblemished so it looks great and lasts for many years.

Hot weather

Even cured asphalt can sometimes soften in hot weather. Over the first couple of Summers the asphalt surface may be prone to marking or indentation if you leave or place heavy objects with high point loads on it (i.e. sharp objects, motorcycle or bicycle kick stands, lawn chair legs, stiletto heels, car jacks etc) during hot weather.

We recommend that you avoid placing these types of objects on the surface during hot weather or place timber under them to spread the load.

This condition called mix tenderness and it will disappear as the mix hardens over time.

Cold weather

In cold conditions, shrinking can occur as temperatures decline and the asphalt surface may crack. New materials and processes have been developed to minimise this type of cracking but it is still possible.

Generally, cracks are not a serious problem until deterioration occurs over time. The rate of deterioration can be reduced by sealing the cracks but the cost-effectiveness of this process can be variable.

Car tyres

Car tyres may cause indentations and power steering can scuff the surface if the vehicle has a tight turning circle or if the wheels are turned when the car is stationary.

To help avoid damage, always keep the car moving while turning.

Ensuring a clean surface will prevent tyres from embedding stones into the asphalt or scoring the surface.

Managing spills

Oil, diesel or petrol spills must be avoided as these substances dissolve the Bitumen in the asphalt mix and will lead to stone particles becoming loose.

If a spillage occurs, dust the affected area with dry cement or any other absorbing agent, or flush with water to lift the oil from the surface.

Managing moss

If moss occurs, spray the affected area with *MossOff* or *30 Seconds* as they are both biodegradable products and will not eat into the asphalt surface. When using these products, follow all safety precautions and consult product labels for specific safety instructions.

Using a water blaster

It is strongly recommended **NOT** to water blast the asphalt surface as it deteriorates the surface causing the bitumen and aggregate to separate leaving the surface open and porous.

Overlays

The most cost effective way to maintain an asphalt surface is to place a thin asphalt overlay to the existing surface.