

Street Resurfacing: How A Street Is Resurfaced

Introduction

The city of Columbus Department of Public Service maintains more than 6,300 lane miles of City roadways including portions of State routes 315, 33 and 104. The work to repair and improve our roadways ranges from pothole patching to the longer term and most expensive projects of resurfacing and the more extensive road reconstruction. A resurfacing project typically includes:

- Top layer of current asphalt is removed and replaced with a new layer of asphalt
- As needed, federally-required ADA wheelchair ramps are reconstructed or added
- Curbs to the immediate left and right of the wheelchair ramps are reconstructed. Beyond that, new curbs are not included in resurfacing projects
- Sidewalks: Reconstruction of existing or addition of new sidewalks are typically not part of a street resurfacing project

A road reconstruction project is more extensive and expensive, including the complete reconstruction of the roadway down to its base. New curbs may be part of a road reconstruction project.

The Steps of Resurfacing A Street

Every street in Columbus is different, so all resurfacing projects are not exactly the same. In addition, any work in the process will be delayed in the event of rain or extreme cold. Here is a general guide telling what to expect when a street is resurfaced.

1. Several weeks before the resurfacing

- When needed, crews will install Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps after demolishing the old ramps
- Everyone, especially children and pets, should stay clear of the work area

2. About one week before the resurfacing

- The project's contractor will deliver a letter to area residents describing the project and include contact information

3. Three days before the resurfacing

- The contractor will post red and white "No Parking" signs
- Parking restrictions are in effect only on the dates and times marked on the signs
- Residential paving in Columbus is done during the daytime, generally between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

4. Step 1 of actual resurfacing: Milling

- Typically, the first step of the resurfacing process is milling or grinding away the old surface
- On-street parking will be prohibited during this work
- Vehicles will still have access in and out of driveways
- Contractors will, if needed, tow vehicles to a nearby street, so please do not park on a milled street that is about to be repaved
 - *Please contact the city of Columbus Division of Police Radio Room at 645-4545 if you find your car has been towed on a street that is being resurfaced, The Police Radio Room will be able to tell you to where your car was moved.*
- It takes about one day to mill away the top layers of asphalt which will be recycled into new asphalt or other products

5. One to seven days after milling, paving

- Unless delayed by weather, the paving will occur within a few days of the milling. Paving is done in the following steps:
 - a. Application of a sticky layer called the tack coat, which helps the asphalt adhere to the roadway. Avoid driving or walking on tack coat
 - b. Next, a new layer of asphalt is laid down on the pavement with paving machines
 - c. Rollers will follow the paving equipment

d. Resurfaced street can be driven on as soon as construction crews re-open the lane or street

6. **After the Paving**

- Some work may remain after the paving. This can include application of pavement markings, cleanup and replanting grass, if needed.

Be Safe Around Resurfacing Projects

Slow down when driving through or near any road construction site

Be alert for construction workers and law enforcement officers

The milled street before the new layer of asphalt is applied will have a rough surface. Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians should use caution, especially near protruding manhole covers

For More Information, Please Contact:

City of Columbus 311 Customer Service Center at 311 or 645-3111, or online at www.311.columbus.gov

Paving the Way Road-Construction Information Program: 645-PAVE, or online at www.pavingtheway.org

For a list of each year's paving projects: www.publicservice.columbus.gov