

CHIP SEAL PROCESS

Since we receive quite a few calls over the chip seal process we have prepared this sheet to answer your questions. First I urge you to go to www.union.maine.gov and sign up for the newsletters; if you were a subscriber you would have had this information before the process began.

WHAT IS CHIP SEAL? Chip seal is a cost effective process to provide a wear surface on roads that are beginning to see some moderate cracking. The process, depending on the condition of the road, begins with a shim base of asphalt to fill in wheel ruts and depressions, and then modified latex asphalt is placed quite thick on the road, followed by uniform granite chips that are then rolled and embedded into the pavement.

LOOSE CHIPS: For the first couple of weeks you will have some considerable amounts of loose chips that build up in the middle and on the edges of the road, after 10-14 days the contractor will sweep the chips and the majority of the loose stone will be gone. Over the next couple of months there will be some stone that becomes loose, but eventually it will look like any other road using conventional asphalt.

WHY NOT JUST ASPHALT? Why not just pave the road? The simple answer is cost; chip seal is about 1/3 to 1/4 the cost of conventional asphalt. Chip seal will stop the degradation of the current base for many years and that will give us the opportunity to delay paving and save us thousands of dollars in the future.

PAST HISTORY: If you would like to see what the road eventually will look like, take a drive over Shepard Hill Road or North Union Road (upper half). Most who drive over it do not know both of those are chip seal projects.

CLARRY HILL ROAD- FIRST 1.1 MILES: The first section of Clarry Hill Road is a perfect example of not taking care of the road (chip seal) and it costing thousands more to repair. We will be doing a complete rehab on that section of the road next year with a projected cost \$180,000!!! Compare that to a 30k chip seal protection.