

## TEN COMMON SEALCOAT JOBSITE PROBLEMS

**The most common problems occur due to three areas of concern:**

- 1) The environment, mainly weather and outside influences.
- 2) Surface conditions and application.
- 3) Sealcoat materials.

The Asphalt Sealcoat Manufacturers Association's (ASMA) specifications cover most of these areas.

Problem	Environment	Surface/Application	Material
1) Sealcoat looks grey quickly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Job done in cold weather, not cured.</li> <li>▪ Rain or sprinkler water before seal is cured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Surface dirty, not properly cleaned</li> <li>▪ Material over diluted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Low on Emulsion content (residual)</li> <li>▪ Lack of Carbon Black in product</li> <li>▪ Light colored aggregate</li> </ul>
2) Sealcoat peeling or flaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Temperature too cold prior to or after application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Surface dirty, not properly cleaned</li> <li>▪ Project previously sealed with Coal Tar</li> <li>▪ Project has car wash soaps or waxes on surface</li> <li>▪ Too many layers of sealer</li> </ul>	
3) White spots on new seal coat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water used to dilute material has high mineral content</li> <li>▪ Nearby irrigation run off has fertilizer or high mineral content</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Salt in sealer from raw materials or city water</li> </ul>
4) Sealcoat worn off surfaces too quickly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High traffic area, material not cured</li> <li>▪ Irrigation water frequently on surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sealcoat too thinly applied</li> <li>▪ One coat applied instead of two</li> <li>▪ Material over diluted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not enough aggregate added to sealer</li> </ul>
5) Surface cracking of sealer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Temperature too cold prior to or after application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project previously sealed with Coal Tar</li> <li>▪ Sealcoat is applied too thick</li> <li>▪ Surface temperature too hot when applying sealer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not enough fiber in sealer</li> <li>▪ Sealer has been in storage too long and not agitated</li> </ul>
6) Aggregate showing through newly seal coated surfaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sealcoat applied too thin</li> <li>▪ Sealcoat will not stick to flat/smooth surfaces</li> <li>▪ High points in pavement will wear first</li> </ul>	
7) Tire scuffing or tearing of sealcoat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caused by a softening of the sealer in hot weather</li> <li>▪ Surface opened to traffic before sealer cured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sealcoat applied to uncured (new) asphalt</li> </ul>	
8) Tracking of sealcoat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caused by a softening of the sealer in hot weather</li> <li>▪ Surface opened to traffic before sealer cured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sealer not diluted to specs</li> <li>▪ Sealcoat not fully cured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High content of emulsion in sealer</li> <li>▪ High content of Carbon Black in Sealer</li> </ul>
9) Blackness (color) of sealcoat not uniform		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sealcoat not fully cured</li> <li>▪ Material over diluted</li> <li>▪ Sealer not mixed after adding water</li> <li>▪ Sealer not mixed after adding extra aggregate</li> <li>▪ Use of squeegee in different directions</li> </ul>	
10) Oil Spots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sealer will not adhere to oils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Surface needs to be cleaned or replaced</li> <li>▪ Apply Oil Spot Sealer to area</li> </ul>	