



# **C&S BLACKTOPPING INC.**

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL PAVING CONTRACTORS

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## **How, Why and When of Asphalt Care**

-You can walk on the new surface after 24 hours. Do not drive on new driveway for 7-10 days and do not park on new driveway for 10-14 days.

--The new asphalt area may look smoother in some areas than others because of the makeup of asphalt. Asphalt has various sizes of stone, sand, liquid asphalt, and other ingredients which cause a varied texture surface. Asphalt areas that have been raked and spread with hand tools may appear different in texture from those spread by machine. The paver seams and roller marks can also be easily seen. These visible surface differences are normal, do not affect durability and are characteristics of the new asphalt material.

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-Because asphalt is a compactable material, small water puddles on flat areas may be unavoidable. Puddles that dry up in +/-24 hours and/or are less than +/- 1/4" deep in a 5' span are within industry standards. The asphalt will soften and harden as the temperatures rise and fall. Although every effort is made to avoid puddles in the area, some small ones are inevitable depending on the slope and drainage of the ground.

-The liquid in asphalt needs time to harden and cure, usually 6-12 months, the area will remain soft and pliable until then. Even after the asphalt has cured, do not expect it to be as hard as concrete.

-Hairline cracking may develop over time due to the contraction and expansion of the ground. Asphalt is designed to be a flexible pavement and can withstand some ground movement. However, if the ground movement is too great, it can cause cracking in the asphalt. This is most common in the winter and spring; however, it can happen at any time. Also, as asphalt ages, it oxidizes and becomes brittle leading to more cracking.

-Avoid using jack stands or car ramps unless a piece of plywood is placed under them to help distribute the weight.

-Excessive weight from large heavy vehicles can depress the area of new asphalt. Keep oil trucks, concrete trucks and any other heavy trucks off the area. If storing heavy items on the area be sure to place plywood underneath to avoid depressions.

-Lawn chairs, bicycle and motorcycle kickstands exert weight on concentrated areas and will create holes and depressions.

-The edges are the weakest part of the area due to lack of side support. Avoid driving on the edges since they will crack and crumble in time. Build up the sides of the area with top soil as this will support the edges and enhance the appearance after grass has grown.

-Avoid gas, oil, anti-freeze, power steering and transmission fluid spills and leaks.

-To preserve the area, it is advisable to seal coat it after it has been paved. The best time to seal is about every 2-3 years. Because asphalt is porous, water can seep into and through the paving. This not only causes deterioration, but results in ridges and upheaval due to frost and freezing. Asphalt is also softened and broken up by gas, lube oil, grease, road salts and anti-freeze which drip from vehicles. Sealer protects asphalt with a coating that is impervious to these harmful elements. Unprotected areas remain porous, dry out, become rough, and lose their life rapidly.

**Your input matters and we would appreciate your feedback. Please google [www.c-sblacktopping.com](http://www.c-sblacktopping.com) and leave a review. Thank you for your business, we would not be here without customers like you.**