

# Surface Dressing will start on your road soon

Thank you for your understanding and patience while this work is being carried out.

Essex County Council is committed to keeping all our roads in the best possible condition with the money available. With everyone's cooperation the work can be carried out quickly with minimum inconvenience to everyone.

**Usually the work is done between 8am and 6pm. Please don't park your car on the road at this time during the days when we are working.**

**BEWARE OF COLD CALLERS**  
Please be aware that our contractors will only be working on behalf of Essex County Council working on the roads and pavements. They will always be wearing their uniforms and they will never offer to do private work such as resurfacing people's driveways.  
If you're approached by anyone offering to surface your driveway and claiming they are working for us, please report them to Trading Standards on 0345 404 0506.



Further ahead of time please do check our website as follows:

**To get the latest live information on these and other roadworks** (planned and emergency works being carried out not only by Essex Highways, but also by other organisations) see our Live Travel Information map. It's online at:

**[www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)** then **Interactive Maps and Live Travel**, then **Live Traffic Map**.

**If we have to postpone the work for a longer period**, you can see revised programme dates online, including our entire annual road surfacing plans, at: **[www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)** then click on **Interactive Maps and Live Travel**, then **Highways Information Map**. Select the 'Programme' checkbox on left, zoom in to your area of interest and click on the map.

**In emergency, please call 0345 603 7631** (cost is usually the same amount as it would be when calling a landline 01 or 02 number, whether making the call from a landline or a mobile).

**Essex Highways**  
**Seax House, 2nd floor, Victoria Road South**  
**Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH**



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## Work to be done on your road...

We are going to put a new top layer on the road outside your property.

Contractors intend to start work on your road within a few days as part of Essex County Council's road maintenance programme.

Please check signs near the road that will show the dates and times for the work.

Engineers survey all roads and prioritise maintenance according to the traffic on the road and the condition of the surface. We ask for your patience please, as staff work to improve the road surface so it lasts longer.

We will have to close all or part of the road while we work, so please allow for this. We need to have the road clear while we do the work, so please don't park your car on the road when we put up the No Parking signs.



We are going to use a process called **Surface Dressing**.

Surface Dressing is an efficient and effective method for routine maintenance of road surfaces. Having previously repaired any defects on the road, we spray the existing surface with a thin layer of hot bitumen binder. Then we spread stone chippings over the bitumen and use a heavy roller so that the bitumen sticks them to the existing surface.

Surface Dressing forms a water-resistant protective layer which makes the road less slippery (more skid-resistant) and extends its life by preventing water (and then ice) getting in to cause cracks and eventually potholes.

After a week, we will return to sweep the road to remove most loose chippings. However, some loose chippings will remain until vehicles press them into the bitumen.

Surface Dressing cannot be done if the weather is too hot or too cold. If the weather forecast for the days after the work is too hot, then we may have to delay, as high temperatures can melt the bitumen, making it less effective. So we may have to delay the work at short notice.

For further information about Surface Dressing, please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways) and then click on **Roads and Pavements** and then **Renewing surfaces**, where there is a link to a video.

**You can drive on the road as soon as all the materials have been laid.**

- Please do not drive on the wet bitumen before we have spread the chippings, as it will stick to your vehicle.
- Please do not walk, or allow your pets to walk, on the new surface even when the chippings are laid because some may stick to shoes (and paws!) and could damage your carpets and furniture. It's worth checking shoes before you come indoors.

You can use Tar Remover to get any bitumen off your vehicle. You can get bitumen off your carpets, clothes or furniture with paraffin or white spirit, but please do test a small section first in case this destroys the colour.

**We will try to let you drive to and from your property safely** as quickly as possible but this will depend on what stage the work is at. Please park in a safe place outside the work area and speak to one of our staff who can help you.

We will usually have staff at each end of where the road is closed, to control traffic.