

## HIGHWAYS IS SURFACE DRESSING YOUR ROAD

We will be resurfacing the road outside your property within the next seven days. We appreciate that work of this nature may result in some disruption and delays, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. This advice note explains the nature of the work we will be doing and how it may affect you.

### WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

The process we will be using to resurface your road is called 'surface dressing'. It involves spraying the existing road surface with a coating of bitumen emulsion and covering it with stone chippings.

The chippings are rolled into the bitumen to form a water-resistant, protective layer, which makes the road less slippery and extends its life.



As soon as the bitumen has set, we will sweep the road to remove any loose chippings but the nature of the treatment means there will be loose chippings on the road surface until it beds down.

Temporary warning signs will be visible to alert drivers, as vehicles using the new surface help to embed the excess material into the surface.

After a week we will return to the road to sweep up any chippings that have not embedded and road markings will be added, as appropriate.

### ADDRESS

Ringway Jacobs | Essex County Council  
County Hall - Seax House,  
Market Road  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1QH

### WEB

[www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)

# Surface Dressing Your Road - What to Expect

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## BEWARE OF COLD CALLERS

**Please be aware that our contractors, Eurovia, will only be carrying out work for Highways in your area. They will always be wearing the Eurovia uniform and will never offer to do any private work, such as resurfacing people's driveways.**

**If you're approached by anyone offering this type of work, and claiming that they are working for Highways, please report it to Trading Standards on 0845 404 0506.**



# FAQs: SURFACE DRESSING

## WHAT IS SURFACE DRESSING?

Surface Dressing is a principal method of routine maintenance of road surfaces. The concept is straightforward: in its simplest form, a thin layer of bituminous binder is applied to the road surface and stone chippings, nominally single sized, are spread and rolled into it.

However, the successful application of surface dressing is weather dependent, and road surface temperature in particular is critical. The technique cannot be used if the weather is either too hot or too cold.

This applies not only to the application, but also in the days and weeks after work, when a sharp increase in temperature can result in the bitumen melting which will adversely affect the skid resistance of the road.

This weather dependence means that the programme of works may need to be altered at short notice.

## WHY USE SURFACE DRESSING?

Surface Dressing performs two functions:

- **Safety - Skid Resistance** - surface dressing increases the texture of the road surface, with minimum usage of scarce high-quality aggregate. These properties directly influence the skid resistance of the road surface, a significant aspect of its contribution to safety
- **Durability - Preventative Maintenance** - surface dressing seals the underlying surface against the ingress of water and air, which cause deterioration of the structural courses of the road. This is preventative maintenance, which directly influences the life of the road.

## WHEN CAN I DRIVE ON THE ROAD?

- You will be able to drive on the road straight after the materials have been laid.
- Do not drive on the wet bituminous surface as this will mark your car and driveways.
- Do not walk on or allow your pets to walk over the freshly laid material because it will stick to footwear (and paws) that could be transferred on to your property such as carpets, internal floors and driveways, etc.

A proprietary tar remover may remove accidental soiling on vehicles. Accidental soiling on footwear and clothing may be removed using paraffin or white spirit.

■ *Please ensure that shoes and pets are clean before entering your property*

## CAN I GET IN AND OUT OF MY PROPERTY WHILE YOU'RE WORKING?

When we are working near your home, we will try to maintain access to your road and property, but this will depend on the exact state of the work at the time you want to access your property.

We will normally have staff at each end of the road closure to control traffic. To access your road or drive, please park in a safe location and speak to one of our staff to let them know where you need to get to.

They will try to make sure you can safely access your property as soon as possible.



## WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THE SURFACE DRESSING IS TAKING PLACE?

During the operations, please ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the highway as our staff will require full access at all times to the road. 'No Parking' signs will be erected throughout sites to advise residents of the times when vehicles should be removed from sites.

Please be patient with our maintenance staff; remember, they are working hard to improve your community.

If you have any queries on the day of application then please seek advice from the crew who will be more than willing to answer any queries.

## HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN THE WORK IS STARTING?

The exact dates of the schemes will be posted on our website a week in advance of work commencing. In addition if you live in the immediate locality of the work, our Contractor will deliver a letter of notification up to three days before the work begins. Signs will also be posted at the site of the work stating exactly when the work will take place. Generally the work will take place between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.

## WARNING

This operation involves the use of heavy plant and machinery. Please do not allow your children to play near or on this equipment, whether or not work is in progress.