



Tar and Chip Information Sheet

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula utilizes “tar and chip” paving on many of its roads. Also known as “chip seal” or “single and double surface treatment” tar and chip paving is used on rural roads with low to medium volumes of traffic as a more cost effective and durable alternative to asphalt concrete paving.

What is Tar and Chip?

Tar and chip roads look similar to asphalt concrete roads but have some differences. Both pavement surfaces use asphalt cement bitumen (Tar) and Aggregates (Chip). Asphalt concrete road surfaces are mixed in a central plant and shipped to the road site hot and mixed for paving. This type of paving is cost prohibitive for smaller rural municipalities such as the Town of South Bruce Peninsula. “Tar and Chip” pavement involves evenly applying hot asphalt cement tar onto a roadway, followed by an even layer of angular aggregate stones which is rolled into place. The stones are further compacted and pushed into the asphalt cement tar over time by the traffic on the roadway. As a result for a period of weeks or months following the application of Tar and Chip to a roadway, there is some loose crushed stone on top of the road surface. Depending on the heat of the summer and traffic the road will eventually resemble the asphalt concrete roads in higher traffic areas.

What can you expect?

Maintenance on your tar and chip road may occur every 5-7 years between May 15th and September 1st. This will involve re-paving one layer of tar and chip (single surface treatment). Roads which are being newly paved will receive two successive layers of tar and chip (double surface treatment). Town road maintenance staff may sweep the road several weeks or months following the initial application of tar and chip in order to reduce the loose stone. The brief periods of inconvenience will be followed by a road surface similar to an asphalt concrete road for periods of 5-7 years.

What you can do?

When your road has been recently paved using tar and chip technology, residents are requested to not sweep the road during the period when the chip is loose, as sweeping may result in a poor wearing surface and an unsafe road condition. The most helpful thing you can do is *reduce your vehicles speed*. This will help to reduce the disturbance of stone on the roadway to ensure a clean even surface as well as minimizing dust from the road. Be a good neighbour – slow down.

For Further Information Contact:

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Public Works Department
315 George St,
Warton ON
N0H 2T0
519-534-1400