

## WHAT IS AN ASPHALT DRIVEWAY?

An asphalt driveway is made up of three ingredients: Rock, Sand, Oil (Binder). The binder is the only portion of your driveway that will noticeably disintegrate in your lifetime. To maintain your asphalt driveway, you should sealcoat it at certain intervals to protect it. This should be done following the first freeze-thaw cycle. The product that we recommend for sealcoating is a Gilsonite based product.

Things to look out for with asphalt:

BE CAREFUL OF: GAS SPILLS, OIL SPILLS, BICYCLE KICKSTANDS, CHAIRS SETTING ON THE ASPHALT, PARKING CARS AND TURNING THE WHEELS OF YOUR CAR ON HOT ASPHALT. ALSO, DON'T PARK ON THE EDGE OF YOUR DRIVE, IT MAY BREAK OFF. YOU MAY GET A CREAK ACROSS THE LOWER HALF OF YOUR DRIVEWAY. THIS IS FROM SETTLING OF THE UTILITY TRENCH.

### CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR NEW DRIVEWAY

Certain care must now be taken that your new driveway has been installed. First of all, stay off the driveway completely for one week. You may use your new driveway after the first week, to go in and out of your garage. However, we do recommend that you refrain from parking on your new driveway for a period of 14-17 days.

Secondly, because asphalt is black, it absorbs the sun. The curing process is delayed by this sun absorption to the point where complete hardness is not obtained for at least three months. What this means is that on warmer days, particularly in July and August, tire marks will appear. However, do not be alarmed, for they will disappear again from the continued use of compaction by your tires. This will also take care of any roller marks.

When storing boats, campers, etc., place a small piece of plywood underneath the hitch or stand. In general, avoid any objects with blunt areas supporting their weight on your driveway. The most common objects are bicycle kickstands, trailer and boat hitches, jacks and narrow heeled shoes.

To help your driveway cure faster, you may want to turn a sprinkler on the driveway during the evening hours of the first week.

After a time, you may notice some small cracks in the driveway. These are expansion joints, which the asphalt will naturally form. These joints help the driveway withstand ground movement in the spring. This is the elasticity or flexibility property of your driveway at work.

Proper maintenance of your new driveway is essential. Asphalt, in absorbing the sun will begin to oxidize. That is why it is also important to seal coat your driveway approximately one year after paving. Seal coating will prolong the life of your driveway, fill the expansion joints and protect your driveway from any auto leakage's, salt and the elements.

