

## If your street is going to be chip sealed....

**Parking and driveway access** will be restricted on the street that will be chip and fog sealed to allow the chip seal process to be conducted. At various times during the process, "No Parking" signs will be placed along the street before work begins so vehicles can be moved off the street. Spokane Municipal Code requires that we provide vehicle owners 48 hours pre-notice, so you will see signs up approximately 2 days before work begins. Parking restrictions may occur at different points during the chip seal process to allow for the different steps of the process to be completed. The "No Parking" signs will remain in the vicinity during the entire project, but be shifted out of the way during those periods when it's acceptable to park in the area.

**No vehicle access will be granted** on the roadway when the chip and fog seal steps are being conducted. These steps are completed on different days. Road Closed Signs will be placed prior to the operations and traffic control personnel will be on site to assist drivers with alternate routes. Once crews have completed their work, signs will be removed and the street will reopen to traffic.

**Keep your speed under 15 mph** when driving on fresh chip and fog seal. High speeds can cause newly applied rock chips to fly and fresh asphalt to splatter.

**Expect some loose rock** immediately following the chip sealing. The street surface will improve over the next few weeks as the surface stabilizes, resulting in a stronger, more durable street.

**Keep pets indoors or fenced** in on the day the street is chip and fog sealed for their safety and to avoid chip seal residue being tracked inside.

**Please adjust sprinklers** so they do not water the street to avoid damage to newly sealed streets.

**Use extra caution** bicycling or riding a motorcycle due to loose rock on newly sealed streets.



## Comments?

If you have comments or questions regarding chip seal, please contact us at **311**

For weekly construction updates and obstruction notices, visit **[My.SpokaneCity.org/streets](https://www.spokane.gov/MySpokaneCity.org/streets)**

Like us on Facebook: **[/SpokaneCity](https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneCity)**

Follow us on Twitter: **[/SpokaneCity](https://twitter.com/SpokaneCity)**

## What is a chip seal for streets?



808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Spokane, WA 99201

Call 311

or 509.755.CITY (2489) if outside city limits

**[My.SpokaneCity.org](https://www.spokane.gov/MySpokaneCity.org)**

## What is chip seal?

Chip seal is one of the oldest and most successful street-surfacing methods, designed to extend the life of a road's driving surface. The chip seal process involves applying a layer of asphalt immediately followed by 1/4-inch rock chips over the street.

## How does chip sealing affect motorists?

After the street has received a chip and fog seal application, motorists are asked to drive 15-mph or less for the next few days. Driving slowly ensures that the rock chips adhere to the street. Higher speeds can cause the rock chips to fly and fresh asphalt to splatter. During the applications, no street parking will be allowed.

## Why chip seal streets?

The Street Department provides safe travel by maintaining more than 2200 lane miles of streets in the City of Spokane. The City is committed to preventative maintenance and preservation of its streets.

Asphalt deteriorates over time, due to the effects of weather, axle loads, tire wear, average daily traffic and utility work. As part of our maintenance program, streets are chip sealed to provide added protection.

With limited available funds, the chip seal technique is a very cost effective surface treatment solution. While not suitable on all streets, this type of maintenance allows a much larger neighborhood area to be treated and helps preserve the overall condition of our streets.

### Chip seal features

- Prolongs the life of a street
- Prevents further deterioration
- Enhances skid resistance
- Adds strength to pavement
- Provides moisture barrier
- Corrects existing pavement damage
- Saves money

Chip seal is successfully used by other areas in our region including City of Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake, Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane County.

## How does the chip seal process work?

There are several steps in the chip seal process. In addition, this process is conducted at a number of sites during the project. Each step of the process will be applied in a wave to the affected areas of the project. Crews will be moving in and out of the work zone as they complete the process steps at each site around the city. When step one is completed in all areas, Step two will begin, etc. The contractor will likely be working in a different location between each step.



## Step one

**Tree Pruning:** Pruning the trees that are within the street clear zone (14' high, curb to curb) is a critical part in the success of a chip seal project. It is required to allow for the safe and unrestricted operation of construction equipment and reduces the amount of debris that can keep the seal from bonding to the street. When pruning is required, it will take place prior to the start of construction, but may occur any time between the final design and the beginning of the actual chip seal application (step three).

## Step two

**Other Prep work:** crews seal cracks, repair the street, remove debris, and level the street (if needed).

## Step three

**Chip seal application:** hot, liquid asphalt is sprayed on the street surface, a layer of 1/4- inch rock chips is applied, a roller passes several times to embed the rock chips into the asphalt. Typically, the street may be driven on at low speeds within minutes after the rock has been applied.

## Step four

**Sweeping:** after the street is open and traffic has driven on the rock chips, there will be loose chips on the roadway. Loosened chips will be swept away. Sweeping occurs after all rolling in the neighborhood is complete and the street and air temperatures have dropped. Sweeping will not fully close the street and often occurs at night.

## Step five

**Fog Sealing:** after the loosened chips are swept, a thin top coat of hot liquid asphalt is applied. If rock chips are loosened during fog sealing, additional sweeping will be conducted.

## Step six

**Clean Up:** After the work is completed, construction crews will return, perform additional sweeping and complete remaining small items of work.

**Please note: Steps three, four and five only occur during ideal weather conditions.**