



# PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT

Paving Coming to Your Neighborhood

March 2016

## Olympia's Pavement Management Program

In 2000, the City of Olympia started a program of preventative maintenance for pavement. We still work on the streets that are in poor shape - but our focus is on maintaining the streets that are in fair to good condition. We do this so they don't decline to poor condition and require major repair.



To further extend the life of our pavement, in 2000 we started using a surface treatment on streets called chip seal. Compared to asphalt, chip seal extends the life of our pavement more cost effectively.

### Why Chip Seal instead of Asphalt?

To stretch limited City dollars and focus on pavement preservation. Chip seal costs much less than asphalt. Chip seal works best to preserve pavement that is in good condition. We typically use asphalt on streets that are in fair to poor condition.

| TYPE      | COST                    |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Chip Seal | \$12.70 per square foot |
| Asphalt   | \$38.40 per square yard |

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Does chip seal look and feel different than asphalt?***

Yes. As you can see in the photo below, the chip seal has larger rock pieces than asphalt. This means it is a rougher surface.

Chip seal comes in both grey and black, while asphalt is typically black.

Chip seal also smooths out over time - as vehicles drive on it. Eventually, it will look and feel similar to asphalt.



### ***Will there be loose rock that needs to be swept up?***

Yes. The chip seal process generates excess rock that needs to be swept up.

### ***Why do chip sealed roads still have bumps?***

Chip seal will not fix bumps. Chip seal is a treatment that is designed to seal the existing surface of the street. Bumps and dips that were there before we chip sealed will still be there after the treatment.

### ***Why don't I get nice smooth asphalt on my street?***

We are spreading our limited resources throughout the City to keep all the pavement in good condition.

### ***Can I drive on a freshly paved road?***

You can drive on chip seal right after it is applied. With asphalt, you may have to wait a few hours before driving on it.



**Will every street in Olympia get a new surface?**

Yes, eventually every street will get a new surface. About 5 miles of streets will get new surfaces each year.

**How do you decide whether to apply chip seal or asphalt?**

Every year we evaluate the condition of the pavement on Olympia streets, and decide on treatments based on conditions and available funding. We maintain a 3- to 5-year list of pavement projects.

**For more information, contact:**

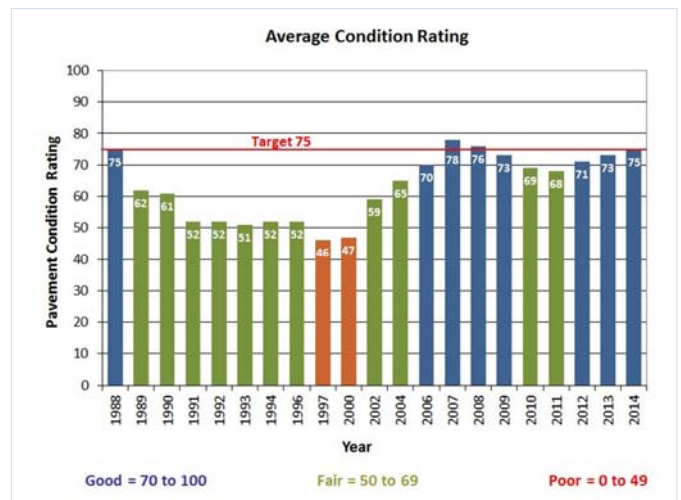
- Dave Rosen, 360.753.8576
- [publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us)

**Pavement Management Program**

**What is Olympia’s goal for pavement management?**

*To extend the life of pavement and delay the need to replace streets for as long as possible. We do this by:*

- Preserving streets that are in good condition;
- Reducing the need for expensive repairs; and
- Evaluating street conditions every year.



**Why did we need to change what we were doing with paving?**

We were focusing on fixing the worst streets first, and pavement conditions in Olympia were rapidly declining. The chart above shows that we have gone from a system that rated 75 out of 100, to a 46 out of 100 rating in less than 10 years.

**What is our goal for pavement improvements in Olympia?**

For our entire system of streets to have an average rating of 75 or above, within 20 years.

**How much would it cost to replace all of Olympia’s streets?**

Over \$245 million. We have more than 214 miles of City streets.