



Douglass Township 2024 Tar and Chip Program

Roads to be Completed

Hoffmansville Road

Hoffman Road

Heidi Court

Fairview Circle

Pheasant Circle

Douglass Township Montgomery County is comprised of 17 square miles and includes about 3,500 residential homes. Our Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of 73.08 miles of township owned public roadways, and winter maintenance on 3 miles of Penn Dot owned roadways. This maintenance is completed by six full time public works employees throughout the year. **The 2024 general fund budget line for highway construction and re-build is \$194,585.00.**

Wondering why Douglass Township didn't go with blacktop?

There are two different paving methods commonly used on roadways.

First, there's traditional asphalt, commonly known as blacktop, which features a smooth, jet-black finish. The second option is tar and chip seal, which possesses a more textured surface. Tar and chip is considerably less per mile than a blacktop overlay. A tar and chip road also requires far less maintenance and is less prone to deteriorate or form potholes over time.

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8 REASONS WHY TAR AND CHIP SEAL PAVING IS USED FOR ROADWAYS

1. It's being used on a low-volume road

If your roadway was paved with the tar and chip seal method, it means that it's considered a low-volume road and sees roughly 2,500 vehicles or fewer per day.

2. It's more cost-effective

Like any paying customer, your township is trying to cut costs, too. Higher costs lead to higher taxes. While blacktop costs become more expensive, tar and chip seal manages to be more affordable. Across miles of road, the cost savings are significant.

3. It has a shorter cure time

As tar and chip aggregate covers the thin layer of hot liquid asphalt that lies beneath, the cure time for tar and chip seal is shorter than that of blacktop. Ultimately, this means less downtime; and less downtime means that you are not inconvenienced.

4. It offers greater skid resistance

Did you know that blacktop and tar-and-chip use the same materials? The difference lies in the construction method. Blacktop has an aggregate mixed throughout, whereas tar and chip seal uses the aggregate as its final layer. As it's the aggregate that provides the traction, you can see how tar and chip seal offers greater safety and skid resistance.

5. It helps eliminate black ice

With tar and chip seal paving, water doesn't pool very easily. Combine this with the extra traction that comes with a generous top layer of aggregate, and black ice is virtually nonexistent.

6. It doesn't break down easily

All roads break down over time. In fact, tar and chip seal roadways are only rated to last for 7-10 years. However, cracks and potholes do not form as easily.

7. It heals itself

Unlike blacktop — which contracts and expands when water, ice, and extreme temperatures are involved — tar and chip seal has the potential to heal itself over time. As any cracks are exposed to hot weather, you may find that they close up and may even be filled in with loose stones.

8. It requires little maintenance

Large cracks and potholes are less common. Small cracks tend to heal with time. This means that, overall, tar and chip seal roads require less maintenance than your average blacktop road.

