Reduced Speeds are for Your Benefit

As with any highway construction project, motorists must exercise caution. Reduced speeds ensure your safety and minimize the chance of damaging your vehicle.

For the duration of the seal coating process, from the time gravel is placed on the road to the time when the excess is swept away, traffic should travel a maximum of 50 km/h. At that speed, vehicles won't be damaged by flying rocks.

Traffic travelling at greater speeds can cause gravel to break loose from a fresh seal coat, creating the risk of flying rock. Rocks thrown from your tires may crack or break a windshield. By driving 50 km/h, you protect your vehicle from unnecessary damage that can be caused by the sprayed asphalt and spread gravel at higher speeds. Also, at a reduced speed, you decrease the chance of damage from rocks which may be thrown up by other vehicles.

Please Be Patient

From time to time, we will be making improvements to our highways which may cause minor traffic delays. Please be patient. Travelling at the posted speed limit in our highway construction zones will ensure your safety and will benefit all those who share the roadway with you.

For information on **Highway Conditions** or construction delays please visit:

BRITISH COLUMBIA | DriveBC

www.drivebc.com

1-800-550-4997

toll free in North America

SEAL COATING

in British Columbia

Seal Coating is the application of a special protective wearing surface to an existing pavement or gravel base.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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Why Do We Seal Coat?

- To keep water from penetrating the road structure on both paved and gravel surfaces
- To fill and seal cracks and ravelled surfaces of old pavement
- To create a hard surface on an existing gravel road
- To provide an anti-glare surface during wet weather and an increased reflective surface for night driving
- To seal the pavement surface and minimize the effects of aging
- To provide a highly skid-resistant surface, particularly on wet pavement

The cost of seal coating is 15-20% of the cost of standard paving or re-paving

The Process

It is a five step process:

1. First, asphalt is mixed with about 30% water. This emulsified mixture is then applied to the road using a specialized spray truck. As soon as this liquid asphalt meets the road surface the water begins to evaporate.
2. Immediately after spraying this asphalt, a layer of crushed gravel is applied by a specialized spreader. This gravel is produced according to the Ministry specifications. Most often, the gravel has a maximum size of 16mm (5/8"-1/2").
3. Next, the gravel is compacted and embedded into the asphalt by rubber tired rollers. Despite the high pressure rollers, some gravel will not become embedded in the asphalt.
4. The newly seal coated surface can require up to two days to cure properly. Hot, dry summer days help speed this process in which all of the remaining water in the emulsion evaporates and the asphalt hardens. Traffic can pass over this surface at reduced speeds during the curing process.
5. After curing, loose gravel is swept off the surface. This may take several sweepings.