

# TOMPKINS COUNTY CHIP SEAL FAQ

## What is Chip Seal?

**Chip Seal** is a pavement surface treatment that is also known as Tar and Stone, Oil and Stone, or Bituminous Surface Treatment. **Preservation of Investment** is the largest reason Highway Departments utilize this method. The process uses two materials, a liquid asphalt binder (the “tar” or “oil”) and a stone aggregate. A **Chip Seal’s** purpose is to “seal” the road from water penetrating which can shorten the life span of the road. Any repairs needed to the roadway system are made prior to beginning the **Chip Seal** process. In most cases, **Chip Seals** are applied to roads that have recently been repaired and the County is working to **preserve the investment** and extend the life. Once the road is prepped and ready the binder is applied



directly to the existing pavement surface. Immediately following the binder the stone aggregate is applied uniformly across the pavement surface. Large roller equipment follows and compacts the aggregate into the binder. Once the road is reopened to traffic the vehicles driving over the new **Chip Seal** will continue to embed the stone deeper into the binder providing a more stable traveling surface. After several days/weeks of travel have occurred a road sweeper is used to clean up any remaining loose stone and the new road surface is painted with roadway striping.

## Why do we use Chip Seal on County roads?



**Chip Seal** is a very cost effective means of **Pavement Preservation**. It typically costs one fourth to one fifth the cost of a conventional asphalt overlay. **Chip Seals** can extend the life of a roadway by 5-7 years as well as correct pavement conditions such as surface bleeding (where liquid asphalt leeches out of the pavement), variations to surface texture, raveling (disintegration of pavement due to loss of aggregate), cracks, decreased skid resistance, etc.

## My road has been scheduled for Chip Sealing. What do I need to know?

Be on the lookout for road crews doing prep work like sweeping and installing warning signs. On the day(s) **Chip Sealing** takes place expect large portions of your road to be closed down to one lane of traffic. This may cause some delays in travel. By the end of the day both lanes of travel will be reopened to all traffic. After **Chip Sealing** is completed expect the roadway to have some loose stone for the next few days/weeks. As more travel occurs there will be less loose stone. Be prepared to drive slightly slower than you are used to until the road sweeper cleans up the remaining loose stone. Take extra care to stay within your normal driving lane and note that no passing will be allowed until striping is complete. If at any time during this process you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Highway Department at (607) 274-0300. Enjoy your recently resurfaced road!

