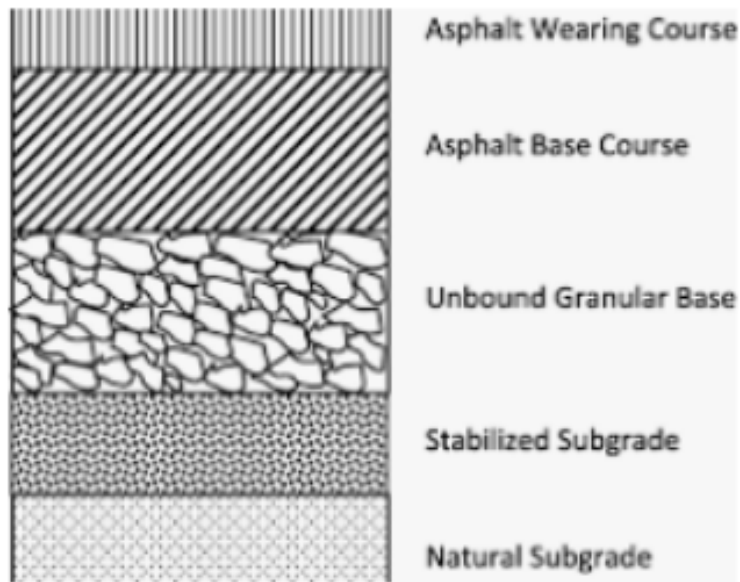


Crack Sealing



Crack sealing is the most applied preventative asphalt maintenance treatment. Cracks occur normally on pavement due to traffic load and thermal stress. Crack Sealing is used to fill cracks greater than 1/8" encountered on the asphalt wearing and base course. Crack sealing is used to prevent water intrusion from degrading

the roads base and subgrade materials. Cracks are inevitable, and neglect leads to accelerated cracking, which if left untreated can result in potholes and deeper base erosion. Untreated cracks allow debris, rain, and moisture to erode roads to a condition beyond cost-effective treatments to more extensive and costly repairs. Sealing of cracks is a critical step in extending the life of the Town's streets. Crack sealing slows the deterioration process of cracks and extends the life of the road from 2-4 years on average. This additional life span combined with the low cost of the treatment makes crack sealing an extremely valuable preventative maintenance technique and an effective use of the Town's limited road funding when compared with other treatment options. This is classified as routine asphalt maintenance.

A common question after a crack sealing operation is "Why weren't all the cracks treated with this application?" The most common reason why is fatigue cracking, such as "alligator cracking" as seen in this image does not benefit from a crack sealing application.



Alligator cracking

Alligator Cracking:

There are several reasons for this type of cracking; water intrusion through cracks left untreated, the asphalt section may not have been constructed to withstand current

traffic loads, or a problem with the subgrade. If this is the case, a more extensive repair is needed such as a patch or reconstruction.

Process

- Cracks and joints are cleaned of vegetation, debris, and loose asphalt.
 - Sealing material is heated in a machine 380 degrees Fahrenheit for proper placing.
 - Crack sealant is applied to cracks and squeegeed flat onto the surface.
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Impact to Residents

Streets will not be closed for this treatment; however, traffic may need to be coordinated by construction workers during application. The drying time of crack sealant is very quick, allowing vehicular traffic to drive across the freshly sealed cracks in short time.
