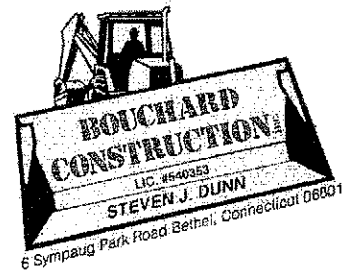


# Your New Driveway

## The How, Why and When of Blacktop Driveway Care



Dear Customer,

Thank you for considering Bouchard Construction, Inc. As your paving contractor and we are confident that this letter will answer all of your questions for a longer lasting driveway.

Since the liquid asphalt in blacktop needs time to harden and cure, usually 6-12 months, your driveway will remain soft and pliable until then. You may walk on your driveway immediately, but keep automobile traffic OFF of it for at least 3 full days and longer in hotter temperatures. Even after the blacktop has cured do not expect it to be as hard as concrete. We do not recommend protective sealing and suggest a 2 year waiting period to allow asphalt time to oxidize.

Your new blacktop will soften and harden as temperatures rise and fall. Watering down your driveway with a hose on hot days will cool down and temporarily harden the blacktop. This is helpful but not mandatory. If soap suds appear do not be alarmed. This is a reaction between the liquid found in the blacktop and a high chlorine content found in some city water.

The compaction procedure may occasionally cause stains on the driveway surface due to the oxidation from the steel drums on the rollers. These stains or streak marks are surface only and will fade as the surface wears.

Although every effort is made to avoid puddles in your driveway, some small ones are inevitable depending on the natural slope and drainage of your ground. Any areas with less than 2% slope can develop small puddles. Grade changes or drainage work should be considered in these areas.

Blacktop may be scarred by automobiles starting out too fast, pulling in too quickly and just plain driving too fast. During the first 6-12 months, while your driveway is curing do not park in the same spot every time.

### DO NOT TURN YOUR WHEELS BACK AND FORTH WHEN YOUR CAR IS NOT MOVING

Avoid using jack stands or car ramps unless a piece of plywood is placed under them to help distribute the weight. Excess weight from large heavy vehicles can depress your new blacktop. Keep oil trucks, concrete trucks and any other heavy trucks off your new driveway. When storing campers for a long periods of time, place a piece of plywood under the tongue jack and also under the tires. Gasoline, solvents, and oils soften, stain, and dissolve asphalt.

Lawn chairs, bicycle or motorcycle kick stands and ladders exert weight on concentrated areas and will create holes and depressions in your new driveway. Especially watch out for those pointy high heels during the warm months when your driveway is new.

The edges are the weakest part of your driveway due to the lack of support. Avoid driving on the edges since they will crack and crumble in time. We suggest building up the sides of your driveway with top soil. This will support the edges and enhance the appearance after the grass has grown.

Your driveway may look smoother in some areas than in others because of the makeup of blacktop. Blacktop has various sizes of stone, sand, liquid asphalt and other ingredients which cause a varied texture of the surface. Also, blacktop areas that have been raked and spread with hand tools may appear different in texture from those spread by machine, which is part of the normal paving process.

This letter has been designed as an industry standard and covers most frequently asked questions. Please feel free to contact us for more information on your specific needs.