

When Can I Drive On My New Driveway?

The liquid asphalt in blacktop needs time to harden and cure, usually 6 to 12 months. Your driveway will remain soft and pliable until then. You may walk on your new driveway immediately, but keep automobile traffic off of it for a least 3 full days and longer in hotter temperatures.



How Can I Prevent Damage To My New Driveway?

1. Blacktop can be scarred when automobiles start out too quickly, pull in too quickly or drive too fast.
2. Do not park in the same spot every time.
3. Do not turn your steering wheel back and forth when you car is not moving.
4. Avoid using jack stands or car ramps unless a piece of plywood is placed under them to help distribute the weight.
5. Excessive weight from large vehicles can depress your new blacktop. Keep heavy trucks off your new driveway. When storing campers, place a piece of plywood under the tongue jack and under the tires.
6. Lawn chairs, bike kickstands, and spike heels exert weight on concentrated areas and will create holes and depressions when the temperature is hot.

How Do I Care For My New Driveway?

1. The edges are the weakest part of your driveway. Avoid driving on the edges since they will crumble and crack over time. Building up the sides of your driveway with topsoil will support the edges and enhance the appearance after grass is grown.
2. Avoid gasoline, oil, anti-freeze, power steering and transmission fluid spills and leaks. These will dilute the liquid asphalt in your blacktop and produce holes. Any holes left by these spills should be filled with cold patch. Any hairline cracks that may have developed over the winter due to contraction and expansion of the ground should be filled with crack filler.



3. Seal coating the driveway is not advisable until signs of visible wear are evident after many years of use. Blacktop is naturally porous and needs to breathe. Sealing your driveway too soon will prevent the asphalt from breathing and can result in premature aging of the blacktop. A better solution to preserving the life of your driveway is to seal only the cracks as they appear.