



# WHAT IS CHIP SEALING?

## OVERVIEW

Chip sealing is a common pavement preservation practice that seals the underlying pavement surface. The seal prevents water intrusion, minimizes the effects of aging and oxidation, and creates a higher friction surface – extending the pavement life and increasing safety.

The preservation chip seal is applied before the existing roadway degrades to a condition requiring rehabilitation or replacement. A single chip seal application can extend the life of the driving surface for five to seven years.

## BENEFITS OF CHIP SEAL



**COSTS LESS**  
THAN  
CONVENTIONAL  
ASPHALT  
OVERLAYS



**PROLONGS PAVEMENT LIFE**  
AND EXTENDS  
TIME BETWEEN  
OVERLAYS



**IMPROVES SAFETY**  
BY ENHANCING  
TRACTION AND  
SKID  
RESISTANCE



**SEALS CRACKS**  
TO CREATE AN  
EFFECTIVE  
MOISTURE  
BARRIER



**PROTECTS**  
THE UNDERLYING  
ASPHALT  
SURFACE FROM  
AGING AND  
OXIDATION



2,500 MILES = DRIVING THE WIDTH OF ARKANSAS 10 TIMES



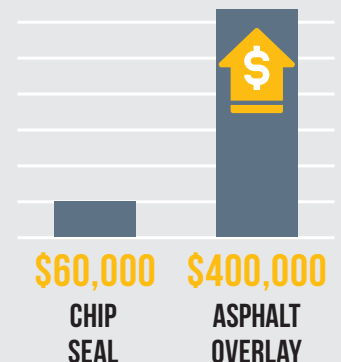
**CHIP SEALS ARE 85% LESS EXPENSIVE THAN ASPHALT OVERLAYS**

## CHIP SEAL VS. ASPHALT OVERLAY

Both chip seals and asphalt overlays use similar materials – asphalt and aggregate – but the methods and costs are quite different.

**Chip Seal:** A thin layer of liquid asphalt is sprayed on the road, then covered with small aggregate, called chips. The chips are compacted for maximum adherence to the asphalt and excess chips are swept away. Chip seals cost significantly less than conventional asphalt overlays while effectively preserving the pavement.

**Asphalt Overlay:** A new surface is created by placing and compacting a two-inch layer of hot-mix asphalt, a blend of hot liquid asphalt and aggregate mixed at a plant. Asphalt overlays are more expensive and are typically used on primary roadways.



BASED ON APPROXIMATE COST FOR A TYPICAL TWO-LANE HIGHWAY



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