

Winter Maintenance Guidelines for Porous Pavements



Maintenance Guidelines

- Road surfaces, porous and non-porous, are commonly not treated and plowed until 2 or more inches of snow accumulation.
- Plow after every storm. If possible plow with a slightly raised blade, while not necessary, this will help prevent pavement scarring.
- Up to ~75% salt reduction for porous asphalt can be achieved. Salt reduction amounts are site specific and are affected by degree of shading.
USE SALT REDUCTION NUMBERS WITH CAUTION!!!
- Pervious concrete salt reduction will vary and is heavily dependent upon shading. For shaded areas, pervious concrete may not achieve salt reduction.
- Apply anti-icing treatments prior to storms. Anti-icing has the potential to provide the benefit of increased traffic safety at the lowest cost and with less environmental impact.
- Deicing is NOT required for black ice development. Meltwater readily drains through porous surfaces thereby preventing black ice.
- Apply deicing treatments during, and after storms as necessary to control compact snow and ice not removed by plowing.
- Sand application should be limited since its use will increase the need for vacuuming
- Vacuum porous areas a minimum of 2-4 times per year, especially after winter and fall seasons when debris accumulation and deposition is greatest.
- If ponding water is observed during precipitation cleaning is recommended.

Winter Maintenance Challenges

- Mixed precipitation and compact snow or ice is problematic for all paved surfaces, but is particularly problematic for porous surfaces. This is corrected by application of excess deicing chemicals.
- De-icing chemicals work by lowering the freezing point of water. Generally, the longer a de-icing chemical has to react, the greater the amount of melting. Meltwater readily drains through porous surfaces thereby reducing chemical contact time. This is corrected by excess salt application.
- Excess salt application in these instances is offset by the overall reduced salt during routine winter maintenance and salt reduction.

Additional Resources

- The UNH Stormwater Center: <http://www.unh.edu/erg/cstev/>
- Pennsylvania Asphalt Pavement Association (PAPA) Porous Asphalt Pavements Guide: <http://www.pahotmix.org/PDF/porous1.pdf>
- National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) Porous Asphalt Pavements for Stormwater Management Revised 11/2008, Information Series 131