



Residential Pavement Overlay Program ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***



#1) Why is the City overlaying my street?

An overlay project is the resurfacing of a street with new asphalt to provide a smoother riding surface and seal the road base, which provides the street structure, from water intrusion. Streets that have older, weathered, and cracked asphalt, but still retain a good base structure, are chosen for a new overlay to extend the overall service life of the street. Because this is a surface treatment and does not change road elevation or grade, overlay is not intended to solve drainage problems or eliminate water ponding issues.

The City plans residential overlay projects by neighborhood, not individual streets, for maximum efficiency; this leaves the neighborhood with a uniform overall appearance.

#2) How will the work be performed?

The overlay process uses two crews: the first crew will mill (or grind) off the old asphalt surface and a second crew will then place the new asphalt surface.

#3) How long is this street overlay project going to take to complete?

The process normally takes several days per street. A neighborhood overlay project could range in time to complete from 4 – 8 weeks depending on the number of streets to be overlaid within the neighborhood. Also the schedule is dependent on weather and other unforeseen issues.

#4) How long will the new, overlaid surface last?

This treatment is expected to provide a minimum service life of five years, while some overlay can last 20 years.

#5) What is going to be replaced / installed with this overlay project?

Included in the scope of this project is: Mill and overlay of existing asphalt street. This is not a full reconstruction project.

#6) Where to call to report problems?

Before each overlay project, flyers/door hangers are distributed to the residents. These will have information about the overlay schedule and provide contact information. In addition, you can also Dial 311 to report your problem. Please mention to the operator that you are calling about a residential overlay and please refer this problem to the "PWE Street and Drainage Division".

#7) What to do if you have special needs?

If you have special needs, please call the contact information provided on the flyers/door hangers or Dial 311 and ask the operator to refer your request to the "PWE Street and Drainage Division." You will be asked to fill-out a *Special Needs Form* which will alert the project manager over the overlay project.

#8) Is this residential overlay project similar to a neighborhood street reconstruction project?

This is simply an overlay project of the existing asphalt residential streets. This overlay project is NOT a neighborhood street reconstruction project and does not include new sidewalks, curbs, street lighting, water lines and sanitary sewers.

#9) How will the work progress on my street?

The project begins with the milling phase which takes about 1-2 days/per street depending on length. During this time crews will manage traffic with flagmen and you will have access to your home. The street may remain milled (not repaved) for up to 3 weeks preferred maximum time.

The milling is followed by the overlay process. During overlay, one side of the street will be done at a time. Crews will help you to access your home as necessary.

Please drive slowly and safely entering and exiting the area. If driving on new overlay please try not to turn your wheels sharply. Asphalt overlay will completely set in about 24 hours, then you may drive normally.

#10) On streets getting an asphalt overlay, what is the procedure for trash and recycling pick up?

During the overlay process, crews are made aware of the trash pickup schedule for your neighborhood and will flag down the trash truck and ask them to pick up trash before paving occurs. Please put your receptacles out as usual.

#11) What about my curbing, sidewalk and driveway?

The asphalt overlay project will not impact your existing driveway or walkway. However, on occasion there has been some breaking of curbing. For this reason, photographs will be taken of the neighborhood prior to work beginning and should you receive damage to your curbing due to this process, repairs will be scheduled for after the completion of the overlay.

#12) What about French drains?

We suggest residents take pictures of any permitted drains/pvc tubing that you have going through the curb so you have evidence for replacement should the overlay process impact them.

#13) At some point, will I have issues parking in my driveway or garage?

As mentioned, this is not a neighborhood street reconstruction project. During this overlay process, access to driveways will be maintained as best as possible for personal access. On some days, you will be asked to park nearby, but this usually only occurs on specific days that specific work is in front of, or blocking a given driveway at a given time. Naturally, rain and weather will have some impacts on these occurrences.

#14) What about the new sidewalks?

New sidewalks or replacement or repair of existing sidewalks is NOT part of this asphalt overlay project. According to the City of Houston ordinance, existing sidewalks are the responsibility of the abutting property owner. Any streets or blocks that currently do not have sidewalks will not receive new sidewalks as part of this overlay project within the affected area.

#15) What about my driveway?

Since this is not a neighborhood street reconstruction project, new driveway aprons are not part of this asphalt overlay project.

#16) What about any school bus that typically drives on the affected streets?

The City will work with the schools and bus routes.

#17) Will the contractor consider individual requests from residents to re-do entire driveways?

The contractor has a very tight deadline to complete this project so they will not be able to assist residents with these types of improvements.

#18) Will my street be at a different elevation than it is today?

Over the past 50-60 years, the topography of our area has obviously shifted and created some highs and lows. The intent of this asphalt project by the City of Houston is to restore a good riding surface to the street and extend its useful life. The overlay process does not re-grade, realign, raise or lower any portion of the street. Any changes that may occur to the street elevation would be minimal or none at all. Overlay projects do not solve drainage problems including gutter ponding.