



“Best Practices” for determining proper Crack Seal materials and for the placement of Crack Seal materials

This document is presented as a guideline for the best practices for determining the proper crack seal material and the placement of the material. It is intended as a guideline and is not to be considered complete. The material supplier should be consulted for specific use and application guidelines for their specific material.

Description

The purpose of crack sealing and crack repair is to prevent the intrusion of water to the base. Crack Sealing shall be applicable for cracks ¼ inch to 1 inch. Crack Repair shall be considered for any cracks over 1 inch wide that may or may not exhibit edge deterioration. Areas where “alligator” cracking has occurred **SHOULD** be repaired rather than crack seal placed.

Materials

Materials used for crack sealing shall meet ASTM or AASHTO specifications and be suitable for local climatic and elevations.

Equipment

All equipment shall be in good working order, free of leaks and appropriate for the material being utilized (IE: direct fire, or standard hot pour).

Cold Pour materials MAY be effective, however hot pour materials will potentially provide a longer life for the crack seal materials. Hot pour materials will provide superior longevity based on environmental conditions, traffic patterns and design.

Construction Requirements

Seal all cracks from ¼ inch to 1 inch in width the entire length of the crack. Repair cracks 1 inch and larger or as marked by the owner or owner’s representative. All cracks that are sealed or repaired must be free of moisture, dirt, debris, vegetation **and chemical deicers**. Before sealing or repairing clean the cracks with a heat

lance or compressed air. If using a heat lance care must be taken not to burn or scorch the pavement and the sealant should be placed before the pavement in the crack cools to allow for the best adherence of the crack fill materials. Care shall be taken to prevent blown debris from striking pedestrians, workers, or causing damage to private property during the cleaning operation. Debris shall be cleaned from the streets and sidewalks as soon as the sealant has cooled sufficiently.

Cracks shall be sealed at a depth of 2 times the crack width. Surface overband shall be limited to a maximum width of 3 inches with a maximum thickness of 1/8th inch. When repairing cracks, care must be taken to fill the entire crack and level any affected area to ensure a smooth and level pavement surface.

Application of the sealant or repair material shall take place only when the pavement temperature is 45 degrees F and rising and the pavement is free of moisture. If sealing is scheduled during or near the end of winter months, **the contractor should make all attempts to assure the cracks to be sealed are free of magnesium chloride or other related snow reduction chemicals.**

Application of the sealant or repair material shall only take place when the sealant or repair material is within the manufactures recommended application temperature.

GENERAL:

All crack seal application should follow the application method described by the product manufacturer. The heating methods are not interchangeable and the contractor SHOULD follow the manufacture guidelines for heating the crack seal materials.

The Owner/ Developer/Property Manager should:

- Require References for all projects to all of the bidding contractors
- Obtain general liability and worker compensation insurance certificates from the contractor prior to allowing work to commence. Word of mouth is **NOT** sufficient proof of Insurance.
- Check for Local licenses (If required)
- Check for Local and State Sales tax licenses information
- Use Local Contractors whenever possible!

For more information, visit the Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association web site (http://www.coasphalt.com/resources/maintenance_preservation.htm) or Who Is CAPA (http://www.coasphalt.com/who_is_capa/membership_directory.htm) for contractor membership information.
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