



DEVONTARMASTERS

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MAGMA LIFE

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**CARE FOR YOUR
ASPHALT**

LOOKING AFTER YOUR TARMACADAM

When asphalt is first laid, the surface will have a shiny, black appearance. After some weeks and dependant upon the use, the glossiness will lessen as the surface weathers. Within 6 months to a year the colour will lighten to dark grey due to the binder on the surface, which oxidises and wears as it is exposed to sunlight. This process also means that the surface becomes more robust and durable over time. It is therefore in the first year of completion that due diligence is most necessary.

DAMAGE

The risk of damage to the surface is greater in its early life before the surface strengthens through the age hardening of the binder. The risk of disruption increases significantly in the summer months when the black surface area will absorb more heat. During hot periods in the early life of your asphalt, refrain from heavy loads on your driveway, and items that have a standing/point load such as ladders, skips, caravans, bikes etc. Additionally, the scrubbing action of vehicle tyres in hot weather may result in damage. Where surface scouring occurs, the area should be immediately trodden in to reconsolidate the loose aggregate particles that have been disrupted. In the early summer months it is advisable to cold hose your drive regularly to avoid any unnecessary damage.

CONTAMINATION

The majority of asphalts, when contaminated with oil or oil derivatives will be subject to softening. The extent of the softening and damage to the surface is dependant upon, the type of asphalt used, the quantity of the contaminant and the length of time the contaminant has been in contact with the surface.

The main culprits are;

- Petrol • Lubricating oil • Gas/diesel oil • Paraffin • Creosote • Oil based paints
- Turpetine, and other cleansing agents & solvents.

If a spill occurs, immediately soak up the liquid with sawdust, dry sand or absorbent paper and discard appropriately and safely. Accumulated oil droppings from a car can create soft spots in the asphalt which, if not treated, will result in the structure eventually breaking down. Brushing the area with a soft broom using a soap solution or a proprietary nonsolvent based cleaning agent will remove some of the oil from the surface but the staining will remain.

The appearance of the surface can also be ruined if it comes into contact with another aggregate, particularly concrete or building mortar. In the event of contamination, the surface should be jetted down with water before the material begins to set. Even after rigorous washing, a light grey area may reappear after the surface dries due to small quantities of the material being retained in the surface voids.

WEEDS

At the edges of the surfacing, and particularly in close proximity to lawns and flower beds, weeds may grow in the dirt accumulated at the surface or push their way through from underneath. If the weeds do not penetrate the asphalt, the weeds should be carefully removed and discarded. If the roots have penetrated the surface, or are coming up from underneath, a proprietary water based weed killer should be used. When the weeds have died off, remove the foliage, and when the surface is warm, re-consolidate the raised patch of asphalt through foot pressure. Only remove the roots if they can be extracted without disturbing the surface.

Asphalt has no weed defence properties built within it. All weeds and seeds on the existing surface must be removed and treated by the customer prior to DTM surfacing works commencing. The heat and moisture within the hot asphalt can encourage weed growth if seeds or weeds are present, and for this reason we do not guarantee against weeds within our warranty.

AFTER CARE

As in all situations, prevention is better than cure. Make sure you look after your new asphalt surface from day one and treat it with respect and care. The most frequent causes of damage to newly laid surfaces are;

- Tyre damage from stationary or slow moving vehicles. When pulling away, apply the steering when the vehicle is moving and not stationary. Take care when making slight and small turns.
- Heavy duty vehicles damaging areas that were made for small domestic vehicles in residential areas.
- Contamination.
- Point Loading.
- Soiling from other aggregates.

***We hope you are very happy
with the finished product!***



**FOR ANY OTHER QUESTIONS
PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY**

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