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## **CARE FOR YOUR MACADAM**

INFORMATION TO ASSIST YOU IN MAINTAINING AND  
PROLONGING THE WORKING LIFE OF YOUR MACADAM  
SURFACING

We only buy from suppliers that produce bituminous macadam to British Standard specifications. Our main suppliers are Aggregate Industries, Tarmac Ltd, Hanson Aggregates and E&JW Glendinning Ltd. The production, quality control and supply conforms to the requirements of National Highways Sector Scheme 14 – The Quality Assurance of the Production of Asphalt Mixes, with independent monitoring, auditing and verification being undertaken by BSI. We are registered under National Highways Sector Scheme 16. This registration is required by Devon County Council for all companies that lay macadam surfaces for which DCC is responsible.

Macadam surfacing has evolved over many years into being a high quality performance product, and is referred to by the industry as 'Flexible' surfacing as opposed to 'Rigid' such as concrete. The constituents of the flexible surfacing materials are basically mineral sands and aggregates held together with a coating of bituminous binder.

In order to facilitate effective mixing, and to provide a workable material for laying, the bitumen contains fluxing agents. Good macadam workability enables a high degree of compaction, which in turn provides a more durable and therefore long-lasting surface.

Over a period of time, the bitumen in the finished surface oxidises with the fluxing agents dissipating gradually and harmlessly into the atmosphere. As a result, **the macadam becomes harder and more durable as time elapses.**

As with any quality product, certain measures should be adopted to maintain its condition. However, **the critical period for due diligence is in the first year after completion** of laying and as macadam is black, it absorbs heat radiation from the sun, which aids the oxidisation process, but heat also softens the bitumen, rendering it vulnerable to certain chemical and physical elements.

### **Elements to be avoided are:**

#### Physical Elements:

On the spot (stationary) vehicle turning.  
Lateral stresses on the surface causing unsightly marking. Heavier vehicles with power steering could give rise to more serious abrasion.

#### Point loading such as:

Car Jacking  
Motor Bike Stands  
Caravan, Trailer legs and Jockey Wheels  
Work Benches  
Engine Hoists  
Chair Legs

#### Chemical Elements:

- Oil (Engine/Gearbox/Hydraulic)
- Diesel
- Petrol

Bitumen is soluble in alcohol and oil based derivatives, therefore any spillage of these products could seriously affect the surfacing by leeching the bitumen binder away