

## Why Oil and Chip

Road work season is here. Our road department has shifted their focus from salting roads and plowing snow to our list of roadway maintenance projects.

Every year, we get some form of the following question:

"Why does the township keep messing up our roads with that oil and chip stuff, why don't they just pave it?"

While we would love to pave, paving is very expensive, up to 10 times costlier per square yard when compared to oil and chip. Oil and chip is a very cost effective way for the township to keep the roads in good shape. With almost 50 miles of township road to maintain, we need to make every dollar we receive in roadway maintenance funds from the State stretch as far as possible.

Oil and chip seals the road surface and keeps it from breaking apart, prolonging its life. We use this application if the road still has profile (a crown in the center with good drainage both left and right and no ruts) to refresh the oils in the road, seal it, lengthen its life and improve traction. It typically takes 3-7 days for the oil to fully cure, depending on weather conditions following application. Once the oil has cured, our contractor comes back to sweep up any loose stone chips that remain.

The most common complaints we receive revolve around driving on a newly treated surface. Here are some tips for driving on roads that have been freshly oiled and chipped:

1. Drive SLOWLY - if you can hear the chips hitting your car, you're going too fast. You can avoid getting stone chips and tar on your car by driving SLOWLY.
2. Never drive between the oil truck and the stone truck.
3. Follow all directions given by the road crew and flaggers if you need to travel on a road that has an oil and chip operation in progress.