



POTHOLES!!!!

**THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY TO AVOID THEM!**

If you would like to report a pothole, please call the Public Works Department at the City Service Center at 970.565.7320.

The unusually harsh winter we've experienced this year has wreaked havoc on our streets. Barring more water leaks and snowstorms, Public Works Crews will be out repairing reported potholes and proactively addressing trouble spots citywide.

The Public Works crews fix potholes using two different methods: semi-permanent pothole repairs and pothole filling. Pothole filling is less time consuming but more temporary in nature. Repairing is the preferred fix; however there are times when it simply isn't feasible. For instance, when there is a long list of potholes to be addressed during emergency winter operations. Regardless, the result is to make the roadway suitable for travel and safe for citizens.

Potholes are repaired with either a "high-performance cold mix" or "hot mix" asphalt patch, depending on the outside temperature at the time of the repair.

Cold Mix Pothole Filling:

The "high-performance cold mix" asphalt patch is much more expensive and does not last as long as the "hot mix" patch. It is primarily used during the colder winter months for emergency pothole repair.

Hot Mix Pothole Filling:

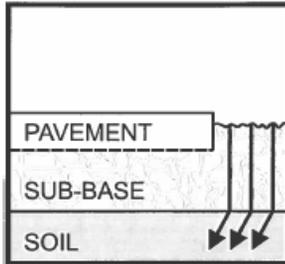
The "hot mix" asphalt patch requires a temperature of at least 40 degrees Fahrenheit so it is used primarily in the warmer spring and summer months.

Once the pothole is identified, the edges are cleaned up for a good bond, making sure the pothole is dry. The asphalt mix material is then placed in the pothole and compacted with a roller. This method has proven effective over time and allows us to maximize the number of potholes that can be repaired. In extreme cases, the only permanent remedy is to completely resurface a roadway.

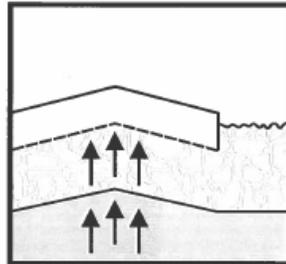
The same crew that plows snow and fixes water leaks also patches potholes. Crews will continue to work diligently to maintain our streets in the most efficient and effective manner because we recognize that potholes and the overall quality of our streets are a major concern for our community.

WHAT CAUSES POTHOLES?

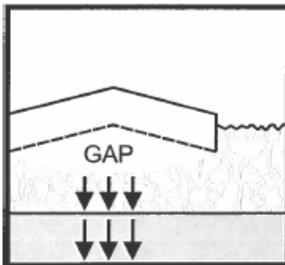
Birth of a Pothole



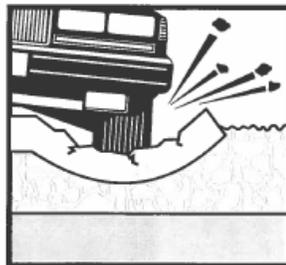
Potholes begin after snow or rain seeps into the soil below the road surface.



The moisture freezes when temperatures drop, causing the ground to expand and push the pavement up.



As temperatures rise, the ground returns to normal level but the pavement often remains raised. This creates a gap between the pavement and the ground below it.



When vehicles drive over this cavity, the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space, leading to the birth of another pothole.

Potholes occur when snow and ice melt as part of our seasonal freeze-thaw cycles. The resulting water then seeps beneath the pavement through cracks caused by the wear and tear of traffic. As the temperatures cool to freezing at night, the water becomes ice and expands below the pavement, forcing the pavement to rise. As the weight of traffic continues to pound on this raised section – and the temperatures once again rise above freezing – a shallow divot occurs under the surface and the pavement cracks. As the cracks start to grow deeper, chunks of pavement material separate, and are pulled out by the wheels of passing vehicles. The resulting hole in the surface of the road is known as a pothole.

Road crews regularly inspect the road to monitor signs of potholes and arrest their growth if they are discovered. A pothole is typically fixed by cleaning out the loose debris and filling it with replacement pavement material. Cold patches are used for small potholes in lightly trafficked areas because they can be quickly applied. Hot asphalt is used in high traffic areas or on large potholes, because it will hold much more effectively. Unfortunately, hot asphalt is only available in the warmer months.



If you need to report a pothole, please call the Public Works Department at the City Service Center at 970.565.7320. Please drive carefully and watch out for our crews filling the potholes.