



# Premier Surfacing

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## TARMAc AFTERCARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

## HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR TARMAC DRIVEWAY

One of the most popular driveway surface choices due to its cost-effectiveness, durability and practicality. Whilst tarmac, or 'Tarmacadam' is a strong, hard wearing surfacing choice, there are still things you can do to ensure many years of service and combat any future problems.

After installation, as a precautionary measure, heavy vehicular access should be avoided for 3 days, due to the material being the softest and this vehicular access can cause indentations and further damage. Pedestrian footfall won't cause any damage through, and you will be able to walk on it almost immediately after it has been laid.

### ***Hot weather***

In hot weather a black driveway will absorb heat from the sun, which may cause the binding agent in the tarmac to become softer. This could cause your driveway to become more susceptible to 'scuffing' from car tyres and denting from point loads.

Your driveway will be more prone to softening during its first summer. Even though the risks become less as your driveway ages, due to the materials hardening, it is important to take extra care during the hot weather.

Scuffing damage to your driveway is usually superficial and will mostly disappear overtime. Weathering of the surface will cause the scuffed areas to blend with the rest of the drive.

### **Tips:**

- During hot weather avoid sharp turning of the wheels of your car when it is not moving.
- Take extra care during hot weather if your driveway is south facing or if you have a heavy vehicle, e.g. 4x4, people carrier.

### ***Oil and chemical spills***

Your tarmac driveway is resistant to occasional drops of oil, however, any major oil spillage will dissolve into the bitumen binding and cause it to soften.

What to do after an oil or chemical spill:

- Soak up the oil as soon as possible, using absorbent materials, such as dry sand, sawdust, cat litter, paper, cloth etc.
- If the oil has already soaked in, then protect the surface from any stress and allow time for the stain to evaporate.
- Where appropriate wash the mark with a brush and lukewarm water, but be aware not to brush away the asphalt itself.
- If chemicals have spilled onto the surface, read the guidelines on the product packaging with regard to dilution. In most cases, using large amounts of water to wash the drive if recommended.

Tips:

- If using cleaning products be sure to test a small patch before treating a larger area.

***Point loading, trailers, caravans, motorbikes and ladders***

The jockey wheels of trailers and caravans and the feet of ladders can cause indentation to your driveway. This is due to having a heavy load over a small arm. Take extra care to avoid this if your driveway is south facing or if it is newly laid.

Tips:

- To avoid indentation, spread the load by using a block of wood, paving slab etc.

***Weeds, vegetation and soil debris***

As your driveway gets older it may become prone to vegetation growth through the asphalt. Use a leaf acting weed killer to remove the vegetation, or use water-based brushwood or root weed killer to treat the root.

To remove surface vegetation it is best to scrub with water, a general weed killer and a stiff brush. Be careful if you chose to use a pressure washer, as this could dislodge stones on an older driveway.

If you are placing soil onto your driveway, make sure you put down a plastic sheet to prevent soil from getting stuck in the surface. If it is placed directly onto the driveway, the surface should be brushed whilst still dry and anything remaining cleared with water and a stiff brush.

Tips:

- When removing dead foliage make sure to scrape, rather than pull the roots out, as this could disturb the driveway.

**Please note:** The information provided in the booklet is intended only as a guide, formal procedures should be developed considering the particular circumstances applicable. Always trial any treatment on an unobtrusive area first to assess suitability. Premier Surfacing assumes no responsibility for improper reliance upon misuse of the information. Appropriate precautions should be taken when using chemicals and advice sought from the statutory authority for their correct disposal.