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Porous Asphalt Q & A

1. Is popcorn mix the same as porous asphalt?
 - a. No. Popcorn Mix was an experimental highway surface mix made in the 80's to carry surface runoff to the shoulders of the highway. Porous asphalt is a truly pervious mix that allows water to penetrate through to the subbase.
2. What type of liquid asphalt cement should we use in the porous mix?
 - a. We recommend traditional PG 64-22 liquid to be used for foot traffic and PG 76-22 should be used for vehicle traffic.
3. How long before vehicles can drive on it?
 - a. It is recommended to wait a minimum of 24 hours before applying vehicle traffic. The length of time needed to let the asphalt cure will be determined by the liquid asphalt type that is used and the ambient air temperature.
4. Can LEED Credits be earned for the use of porous asphalt?
 - a. Yes. LEED rating categories SS Credit 6.1, 6.2 and 7.X can earn from 1 to 3 credits. For more information please visit NAPA website at www.hotmix.org.
5. Is porous asphalt more cost effective than other porous systems?
 - a. Generally porous pavement is the less expensive and economically sound option compared to other systems.
6. What is the durability of the porous asphalt mix?
 - a. The life span of the pavement will range between 12 to 15 years under normal conditions, similar to conventional asphalt pavements.
7. Does porous asphalt need maintenance?
 - a. It is recommended to remove debris as needed with a vacuum truck. This will be site specific. The average lot may require cleaning once or twice a year.
8. Can driveway sealer be applied on porous asphalt?
 - a. No. Sealer will fill the air voids, therefore reducing the porosity.
9. What type of aggregate is required in the porous asphalt mix?
 - a. A good quality hard aggregate.



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10. Can you use salt on porous asphalt?

- a. Salt is not necessarily recommended, but if needed to apply to the surface a pure salt that has no contaminants in it should be used. Sand and other anti-skid materials will fill the voids in the asphalt. The melting process occurs much quicker on porous asphalt than regular asphalt, due to the air voids in the asphalt.

11. Is porous asphalt easy to repair?

- a. Yes. This asphalt can be repaired in the same manner as conventional blacktop using a porous mix.

References:

- National Asphalt Pavement Association (2008)
 - Information Series 131, Porous Asphalt Pavements for Stormwater Management
- National Asphalt Pavement Association
 - Asphalt Pavements and the LEED Green Building System