

Resurfacing FAQs

How do we decide which section of road or pavement to treat first?

The programme of works is created following detailed inspections and mechanical scanning of the roads to get a full analysis of the condition – not just the visual appearance of any defects e.g. potholes and rutting on the roads but, more importantly, a deep scan which helps to tell us about the underlying stability and condition of the road beneath the surface. This creates a sequence of works and determines the type of treatment required for different sections of road and pavements to bring the network up to the required standards at an equal pace across the Island.

How do you decide when to carry out the works?

We work hard to programme the work sensibly, taking into account the technical requirements that make some roads and pavements a priority compared to others. Careful consideration is given to other factors such as major events, the tourist season, utility works and available diversion routes. The programme, the timeframe and the timings are agreed in advance with the IW Council

How will I access my property while you are surfacing my road?

A road closure will be in place during the resurfacing works, for the safety of both residents and the crews working within the site. Residents letters will provide the specific information/timings regarding residents access. We understand residents may be concerned about the road closure but we will do our best to work with residents wherever possible. However, please be aware access is restricted to enable the works to progress within the timeframe planned. We appreciate this may cause some extra planning for residents but we thank you for your understanding whilst we complete these essential works.

I have essential appointments to attend/have carers daily and require access, what do I do?

Please supply us with the details of your requested times and vehicle details. The information you provide will be passed onto the team managing the closure, who will do their best to give access through the work site on the dates and times agreed. Please allow extra time as there is the possibility of delays due to large machinery.

I have neighbours that require access, have you spoken to them?

We deliver the same letter to all effected properties. If you feel that your neighbour has exceptional requirements, please ask them to contact us.

You have stopped me parking outside my property whilst you are carrying out works in my road.

Parking will be restricted during our works so that they can be completed as quickly as possible. Please be aware that alternative parking arrangements are the responsibility of each vehicle owner and not Island Roads. We recognise this may cause some inconvenience but hope you can work with us for this short period of time. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

There is no footway for pedestrian access. How can I get to my property during the works?

Pedestrian access will be maintained. During working hours' residents will be marshalled through the site where necessary. Please be aware there could be delays.

What do I do about deliveries?

As above, there will be pedestrian access throughout the works. Please take advice from your delivery supplier when booking your delivery.

Why can't you do the works under traffic lights?

This is sometimes possible on large carriageways. However, the majority of carriageways on the Island are not wide enough for the necessary working areas, required safety zones and large machinery at the same time as the continued use of traffic.

How do you decided whether to surface in the day or at night?

The time period in which we can undertake the resurfacing is based on traffic flows. When a particular road has a high volume of traffic, it is often more appropriate for us to carry out the works at night to minimise large-scale disruption during the day. When we work through the night we try, where possible, to keep particularly noisy works to the early part of the evening and open the road to traffic each morning if it is safe to do so.

How do you decide on the diversion route during the works?

Diversion will be carefully planned to take the shortest route that an HGV can practically use, as the diversion signing has to be able to direct all traffic. Local knowledge may mean some road users use alternative shorter routes, but please do not ignore road signs as this may result in shorter journeys.

What is micro surfacing?

Micro surfacing is a fast and cost-effective way to preserve and protect worn roads. Sometimes known as micro asphalt, micro surfacing is laid over the top of existing road surfaces to seal and protect them. Micro surfacing is applied cold, in fluid form directly onto the existing road by a special machine. This seals the surface to prevent water penetration, restores the shape of the road and improves skid resistance. Micro surfacing is normally undertaken during the summer months due to the dryer weather conditions as the material requires warmer weather to cure. The material cannot be applied when it is raining.

What benefits do road users see?

Micro surfacing is quick to apply and often requires only temporary road closures so causes less disruption. Traffic can often travel on the new surface within 20-30 minutes or at the longest an hour after application. It is ideal for urban locations where a hard wearing, longer lasting surface is required.

Why does it look unfinished?

When micro surfacing is first laid, the surface tends to look quite coarse, uneven and rough. This is perfectly normal and no reason for concern. Although we sweep the road following the application to pick up the majority of loose stones, we also rely on traffic to help embed the stones in the weeks following treatment. Ironworks (such as drains and manhole covers) are raised and road markings replaced a week or so after the surface is applied as part of the aftercare (although safety-related markings go back earlier on a temporary basis if necessary). The laying process may also result in the fluid splashing slightly up the kerb face; this is normal and weathers over time.

What are the environmental benefits?

Micro surfacing uses cold materials. This means no hot material is used on site improving safety and reducing fumes. As the bitumen and aggregate components are mixed on site within the machine, transport and mix cost, as well as fuel savings, are made contributing to a lower carbon footprint than other forms of asphalt surfacing.

What should I do whilst works are taking place?

During operations, please pay attention to the parking restrictions as we will require full access to the road. Please do not walk on freshly laid materials because they may stick to your shoes and can be transferred to indoor flooring. We also ask you not to drive on the freshly laid material. Although one advantage of micro surfacing is how quickly it dries, it can take between 20 minutes and an hour.