

Pothole Patching Guide



Don't forget the 4 steps prior to any patching method:

- 1) work zone safety, 2) weather, 3) materials, and 4) preparation.

Method 1: Cold Mix / Pre-Mixed

Use for very small repairs or in colder months when you can't use hot mix / injection.

Use cold mix or high performance mix from a local vendor or pre-mixed buckets or bags.

Apply light tack coat of diluted emulsion at a rate of about 0.1g/yd².

Check the compaction by testing 1-2 holes first.

Spread patching material over the pothole to a depth about 1/4 - 1/2 inch higher than the pavement.

Compact materials using a pneumatic tire roller or a steel wheel roller.

Lastly, lightly dust surface with light sand, such as Black Beauty, to reduce pulling on new patch.

Method 2: Hot Mix (HMA)

Use HMA during warmer months, typically after April 1st.

If patch fills a hole that's down to gravel, do not apply tack to the gravel.

If it's not down to the gravel, apply light tack coat of diluted emulsion at a rate of about 0.1g/yd².

If patch is in an area of delamination, then tack the entire area.

Test your HMA material on a small section.

Lay HMA over surface and spread to a minimum of 2x the thickness of the largest aggregate size.

Compact HMA using pneumatic tire roller or steam roller. Allow patch to cool to 170°F before allowing traffic on it.

Method 3: Spray Injection

Use this approach as a permanent repair and in the warmer months of the year

Evenly apply a light tack coat about 0.04 inch thick.

Apply an even coat of emulsion to any exposed gravel in the pothole. This will bind to the stone.

Confirm the aggregate is evenly covered with emulsion.

Add enough stone and emulsion to extend above the surrounding pavement, about 1/4 - 1/2 inch.

Allow new patched area to "cure," or change from a brown color to back before allowing traffic on it.

Traffic on a new area too soon will cause severe pulling of the new material and damage vehicles.