



## CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP

### BERKS COUNTY, PA

### Tar and Chip Fact Sheet

#### **What is Tar and Chip?**

“Tar and Chip” pavement involves evenly applying hot asphalt cement tar onto a roadway, followed by an even layer of angular aggregate stones which is rolled into place. The stones are further compacted and pushed into the asphalt tar over time by the traffic on the roadway. Some loose crushed stone will remain on the top of the road surface for weeks or months following application of the “Tar and Chip”. Especially in higher traffic areas and depending on the heat of the Summer, the roadway will eventually resemble asphalt roads.

#### **Reasons Why Chip Seals Are Used?**

- Lower cost for road maintenance (short term and long term).
- Eliminate the need to crack seal.
- Enhance safety by providing good skid resistance.
- Provide an effective moisture barrier for the underlying pavement against water intrusion by sealing cracks in the pavement.
- Eliminate black ice situations.

#### **Can cars be driven on a freshly Chip Sealed Road?**

Yes, and the most beneficial thing to do is reduce driving speed which will help to reduce the disturbance of stone on the roadway, help ensure a clean even surface, and help to minimize dust from the road. Motorists should avoid high speed turning or sharp turns on freshly applied seal coats.

#### **Should residents sweep loose Chips?**

No, as sweeping may result in a poor wearing surface and an unsafe road condition. Public Works staff sweep the roads weeks or months following application of “Tar and Chip”. Initial sweeping operations typically take place 1-2 weeks after application, per vendor contract. The Township also rents machinery to compact the aggregate soon after the process is applied.