



Information provided by this WSA Member:

**WORLD SWEEPING
ASSOCIATION**

Quality pavement sweeping is of extreme importance both prior to and after sealcoating the pavement's surface.

Before any sealcoating job be sure a 'mid-level' parking lot sweeper is employed to get the surface cleared of all material, including any larger rocks/gravel. An entry-level sweeper will likely not do an effective job on rocks and other heavier material.

Then, after sealcoating and re-striping, regular sweeping will help preserve and extend the life of both the asphalt and the sealcoat due to its removal of dirt, debris, and other harmful materials from the surface. This also helps to prevent damage from moisture and chemicals, which can cause cracks and other forms of wear and tear.

It's also very important that your sweeping contractor understands all the best practices of sweeping fresh sealcoat. A primary one of these is to make sure the pickup head on most sweeper models is held off the ground by flat, carbide-surfaced skids similar to skis. Extra care needs to be taken not to mark up fresh sealcoat with these via minimizing any down-pressure of the head.

Over time, regular sweeping is an important part of any maintenance program for asphalt surfaces, since it helps to keep them looking and performing their best over time. Otherwise, grit left on the pavement's surface will cause microscopic scratches on the surface, which can weaken the bond between the sealcoat and the asphalt. This can lead to the development of cracks, which allow moisture and other harmful elements to penetrate the surface and cause further damage.

Removing the grit on a regular basis keeps it from wearing down the surface while also preserving the bond between the sealcoat and the asphalt. This helps to extend the life of both the sealcoat and any line striping, which maintains the appearance and performance of the pavement for longer. We are a proud member of the World Sweeping Association, which is the only industry resource that provides a collection of over 250 articles and related information on many of the various issues encountered in parking lot sweeping, including on this topic.

As a WSA member, we also receive a 'WSA Member Update' on the 1st and 15th of every month via email. These contain updates and other information on a wide spectrum of sweeping-related issues, keeping our company current on industry standards and best practices.

For those reasons and more, you will find our firm will perform to the highest standards to keep your paved areas looking their very best, year after year.

*For more information call the WSA member contractor that provided this handout.
You may also visit the World Sweeping Association website at: www.WorldSweepingPros.org.*

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