

Driveways Need Maintenance and Protection

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If you are the owner of a paved asphalt driveway, it is highly recommended that you protect and maintain your investment. Driveways or parking areas almost never wear out from use by traffic. Pavement problems are usually caused by surface breakdown from weathering, oxidation and damage from petroleum solvents. The accumulation of water "within" the pavement is probably the greatest cause of pavement deterioration due to the freezing/thawing cycles and sub-base erosion. Oxidation, or the breakdown of the

pavement, is caused by the damaging rays of the sun. This can cause the pavement to become brittle and nonflexible, which decreases the useful life of the pavement. Gas and oil leaks from vehicles can cause "soft" spots in pavement, eventually leading to the loss of pavement in that area.

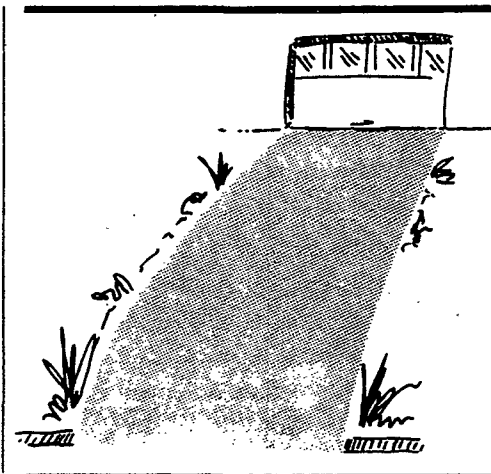
After years of use, the fine stones in the asphalt begin to loosen, and the texture of the surface becomes rough. Cracks can develop and allow water to penetrate to the base. At this point the asphalt is approaching the end of its useful life.

By sealing the surface, you can help prevent the pavement from breaking down. The life of the drive can be extended, and

the dull gray appearance that occurs over time can be prevented. Sealing provides a uniform, long-lasting black color.

Recent advancements in the sealing industry have allowed the use of sand aggregates to be used in conjunction with the coal tar sealers. By use of this "aggregate" you can achieve an anti-slip and non-glare surface. The sealer will last longer because traffic is riding not only on sealer, but on the sand aggregate also.

When using a sealing company, check the following: what product are they using? Does it include an anti-slip surface? Do they have a written guarantee, and what does the guarantee cover?



HOMEFACTS

Copley News Service

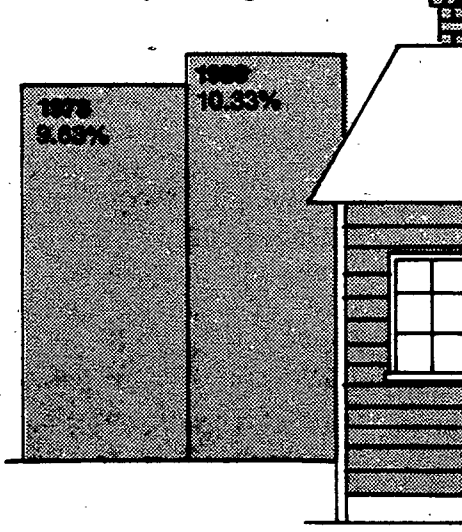
Where Americans buy housewares

(1987 housewares market, including appliances, dishes, cookware and utensils)



SOURCE: National Housewares Manufacturers Association

Average mortgage interest rate is up when compared to levels 10 years ago.



SOURCE: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

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