The two above photos illustrate how a typical street looks a week and a year after receiving slurry seal. The left photo is of Finn Hill’s 91st Court Northeast, off Northeast 142nd Way, a week after Kirkland’s contractor applied slurry seal to it and before its first sweeping. The right photo is of Juanita’s Northeast 131st Place, off 104th Place Northeast, to which the Kirkland’s contractor applied slurry August 2015.

Streets begin smooth transition

Rough textures will smooth out with time, traffic and three rounds of street sweeping. Kirkland extended the optimal lives of more than 40 neighborhood road-sections in late August when its contractor applied slurry seal to their surfaces.

This quarter-inch layer of water, aggregate and emulsified asphalt—oil—shields the pavement beneath it from weather and replenishes that pavement with new aggregate, which can extend roads’ good conditions for five to 10 years. And all it costs is $1,600 per city block, compared to the $17,000 per city block to repave a road, or the $65,000 per block to rebuild a road.

The cost-effectiveness of slurry seal is why thousands of municipalities throughout the nation use it and why the City of Kirkland has used it in every neighborhood throughout the City for the last 14 years.

These benefits, however, can be hard to see in the first few weeks after the streets first receive slurry seal. Initially, the surface is gritty, where it was once smooth. This initial grit is normal. It is also temporary.

The first phase of your street’s transition toward smoothness is the street sweeping, which removes all of the loose gravel. This occurs approximately one week, three weeks and three months after application. The second phase of that transition is more subtle. And its main ingredient is time.

Over time, automobile traffic will dislodge the larger, sharper pieces of aggregate that initially give the road its rough surface. Traffic will also push the remaining aggregate deeper into the surface.

Within a year, the smooth road residents remember before slurry seal will be back—with an extra five to 10 years of high-quality life infused into it.

INFORMATION: visit www.kirklandwa.gov/streetpreservation or contact Christian Knight, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, cknight@kirklandwa.gov and (425) 587-3831.
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