**New Asphalt Driveway/Crossover Care**

If you follow the guidelines below, we expect your new driveway/crossover to last up to 15 years.

Asphalt takes a year to cure fully however you can use it after 3 – 5 days. In the Summer we would advise to not use the driveway/crossover for at least 5 full days as it takes longer for it set. Pedestrian footfall won’t cause any damage though, and you will be able to walk on it almost immediately after being laid.

Please do not keep trailers, campers or boats on the new driveway for at least a month ideally a year. Should you need to keep it on the driveway ensure that you place plywood under the jack and the tyres to distribute the weight and avoid divots or depressions appearing in your driveway.

Ensure that all Acos/drainage are cleared regularly as poor drainage can cause the pooling of water and in winter with icy conditions can cause the tarmac to crack or raise.

If oil, petrol, diesel, paraffin or creosote leaks on to the Asphalt the best thing to do is try and absorb as much as possible using things such as cat litter, sawdust, dry sand, paper, cloth etc. If the oil is allowed to soak in to the surface it can cause it to soften.

Because the driveway/crossover is black it can absorb heat in sunny weather becoming quite hot. Under such conditions the bitumen-binding agent becomes softer and the surface becomes more prone to ‘scuffing’ from tyres and indentation from point loading from ladders etc. It is sensible to take care not to overstress the surface in hot weather particularly by sharp turning of wheels with power steering when your vehicle is not moving, as this can distress the surface. The is particularly important in the early life, first summer of your driveway/crossover when it will be black, shiny and prone to softening, as it ages the surface will turn grey and the material will harden therefore the risk of damage will be much less. It is however wise to remember that there is always risk of such damage in hot weather. As an extra precaution, you can hose down your driveway/crossover with cool water to temporarily harden it up again.

Whilst scuffing damage like this may give you concern; it is usually only superficial and will largely disappear as the surface has been ‘turned; to show the new black bitumen. Weathering will blend these areas into a uniform appearance with the rest of the drive. This guidance is particularly appropriate to sheltered south facing drives where surfaces retain heat for longer periods and to heavy vehicles, such as people carriers and four wheel drive off roaders.

Do not attempt to seal the new Asphalt for at least 30 days after installation. It is best applied after a year or so, this will act a s a defensive barrier for your tarmac, protecting it from spills and the elements whilst also rejuvenating its appearance.

Older driveways/crossovers can be prone to growth of vegetation through the asphalt. The best course of action is to first kill this by means of leaf acting weed killer such as Roundup. Carefully remove the dead foliage by scraping, but do not attempt to pull out the roots as this could disturb the driveway/crossover. If necessary, treat the root with appropriate water-based brushwood or root weed killer.

In damp shaded areas of driveways/crossovers moss growth can take hold surprisingly quickly. To protect the new surface, you should treat the affected areas with a suitable moss / algae killer as soon as possible.