

Solving Problems in Slurry Surfacing

Problem	Possible Cause	Action
<i>Slurry breaks in mixer or spreader box</i>	High clay, fines in aggregate	Check grading, MB or SE
	Lack of mix water	Check feed
	Aggregate feed too high	Check gate
	Hot emulsion used	Check temperature
	Insufficient additive	Increase additive
	Emulsion designed for low temperatures	Consult supplier
	Water absorbed by substrate	Spray surface
<i>Slurry sets too rapidly on road</i>	High fines content in aggregate	Check grading
	Road surface too hot or absorbent	Spray surface
	Insufficient additive	Increase additive
	Insufficient water in slurry	Increase water
<i>Slurry consistency too low, mix looks wet</i>	Too much mix water	Decrease feed
	Low fines in aggregate	Check grading
	Aggregate feed too low	Check gate, hopper
	Filler too low	Check bin and feed
	Excess additive	Reduce additive
<i>Mix looks dry</i>	Lack of mix water or emulsion	Check feeds, increase
	Aggregate drier than expected	Check moisture content
<i>Excess foaming</i>	Excess additive	Reduce additive level
	Slurry consistency too low	See above
	Excess emulsifier in emulsion	Check with supplier
<i>Slow setting of seal</i>	Low fines content in aggregate	Check grading
	Excess emulsion or water	Check feeds
	Excess additive	Reduce additive
	Emulsion designed for higher temperatures	Check with supplier
<i>Fatting up of binder. Surface glossy and sticky</i>	Filler too low	Check feed
	Aggregate too coarse to hold emulsion	Check grading
	Slurry consistency too low	See above
<i>White discoloration (Lime bloom from filler) in seal</i>	Slurry consistency too low	See above
	Too slow setting	See above
<i>Uneven light gray color in seal</i>	Aggregate feed too high	Check feed and bulking corrections
	Emulsion feed too low	Check feed
	Clay in the aggregate	Check MB or SE values

MB = methylene blue value

SE = sand equivalence

Problem	Possible Cause	Action
<i>Texture variation</i>	Segregated aggregate	Turn over stockpile
	Low slurry consistency	See above
<i>Mat scored by furrows</i>	Mix breaking in the spreader box	See above
	Broken slurry falling into box	Keep box clean
	Layer laid too thin	Should be >1.5x top size
	Aggregate contains oversize	Screen aggregate
<i>Coarse particles removed by traffic</i>	Traffic on too soon	Control traffic
	Laid in cold weather	Adjust emulsion recipe
	Clay in aggregate	Check aggregate
	Aggregate grading wrong	Check grading
<i>Bleeding in wheel tracks</i>	Loss of coarse aggregate	See above
	Too much asphalt	See above

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