

**Your new bituminous surface is classed as a FLEXIBLE surface**

Please note that asphalt or bitmac is not rigid like concrete – in fact all bituminous bound materials are called flexible surfacings. This is due to the thermoplastic nature of bitumen. This means that asphalt and bitmac will soften and flex to a degree with increasing ambient temperature, i.e., warm weather. This is not a fault of the material, which will regain its normal stiffness when the temperature cools down. Warm weather softening is to be expected on new surfacing when the bitumen is fresh. Over time, the bitumen will weather and oxidise, and become naturally stiffer and more resistant to marking, scuffing or indentation. Please take extra care regarding your new surfacing for the first six months or so. Avoid applying power steering when your car is stationary. Avoid applying high pressure loading, e.g., motor bike stand or trailer jockey wheel – place a board under such loads.

**Your asphalt or bitmac surface will be damaged:**

1. If any of the following type of liquids are spilled on it:
  - petrol (e.g., from leaking vehicle fuel tanks, or when filling petrol driven lawnmowers)
  - diesel or heating oil
  - kerosene (paraffin)
  - engine or hydraulic oil which will penetrate and permanently stain and soften the surface
  - paint or paint thinners, e.g., white spirit
  - light petroleum distillates, e.g., lighter fluid, WD40
  - bleach or other strong alkali
2. If exposed to excessive heat, from, for example:

- bonfires
  - weed flame guns.
3. By moss, weed or algal growth, particularly in damp shaded areas.
  4. If cement or concrete is mixed or spilled onto it.
  5. By applying power steering while your vehicle is stationary.
  6. If excessive loads are applied, e.g., parking HGV vehicles on a surface constructed for light duty (i.e., car parking on a driveway); motor bike stand or caravan jockey wheel indentation (particularly in warm weather).
  7. If accessed by construction plant of any type, e.g., mini-diggers, JCBs etc. Surface may also be permanently marked if delivered soil or stones are dumped directly onto it.

**Care and maintenance:**

1. Cleaning – brush and hose down with water when required.
2. High pressure washers can damage the surface and are not recommended.
3. Other than mild, well diluted detergent, cleaning agents of any kind are not recommended.
4. Check the manufacturer's instructions for any proposed moss or weed treatment to ensure that is suitable for use on asphalt or bitmac surfaces. If suitable, follow the instructions closely regarding handling safety, dilution, and application method.

Northstone (NI) Limited, Quarry & Asphalt Division, can not be held responsible for any damage to any materials supplied, and/or surfaces laid, due to the non-observance of the conditions and precautions outlined above.