

Mill and Overlay FAQ

1) What does “Mill and Overlay” mean?

Mill and Overlay involves grinding up the existing asphalt material, removing it, and applying new hot mix asphalt surface layer. The result will be a much smoother driving surface.

2) Why is Mill and Overlay important?

The major benefits of Mill and Overlay are to reduce surface roughness and address minor deformations, cracking, and irregularities in the pavement surface resulting in a much smoother ride quality and longer overall pavement life. This type of resurfacing treatment prevents the City from having to perform a full street reconstruction, which can be costly and time consuming.

3) What is the process?

The mill and overlay process is performed in two phases. Phase one involves the grinding or milling and removal of the asphalt layer. The second phase involves placing a new layer of asphalt concrete surface. In normal conditions, it is a two day operation. As always, schedules are projected as accurately as possible but are subject to change due to the nature of maintenance construction and weather.

4) How will this affect traffic and street access?

The street will remain open to traffic; however, access to driveways will not be available when the new pavement is being placed in front of the driveway. We encourage drivers to use extra caution while in the work zone. Once the material is placed, rolled and compacted, vehicles may drive (slowly) on the new pavement. Following the street resurfacing work, crews will install pavement markings and striping within two weeks.

5) How will I be notified if mill and overlay is scheduled on my street?

Notifications are delivered door-to-door to alert residents that crews will be on your street to perform routine street maintenance. The notice is a door hanger letter that will be delivered to the affected homes/properties about a week in advance to remind residents that crews will be on your street and provide details on the schedule and the process. There will be “no parking” signs posted along the street, reminding residents not to park within the work-zone between the posted work hours.

6) Why are you working on to my street?

Mill and overlay is needed to preserve the underlying pavement structure and to provide smoother ride quality. Streets are selected based on pavement condition.

7) Are you going to fix my driveway?

It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain and repair the driveway. Mill and Overlay is strictly for street maintenance only.

8) Why did you tow my car?

Entire street surface is being replaced , and the full width is needed for the equipment and passing vehicles . Affected residents are notified in advance to remove parked cars. Any car(s) left on the street(s) on the day of the scheduled work **will be towed around the corner** so that scheduled mill and overlay work can be completed.

9) Approximately what time will crews be working on my street?

The crews work during daylight hours from 7:00 AM-5:00 PM on weekdays. Depending on the type of street, work on weekends or at night may be necessary.

10) Can I drive in and out of my driveway?

Yes, during milling and paving operations City crews will assist you. For yours and the City crew's safety, we request that you do not drive while crews are working within close vicinity of your driveway. However, in case of urgent need should you need to get in and out of your driveway, there will be crews to assist you.

11) Will my trash be picked up?

Most of milling and paving work is usually scheduled outside of routine trash pick-up days/schedule with little or no conflicts with the trash pick-up schedule.

12) Why are we working on weekends?

On some of the City of Austin arterial and collector streets, preventative maintenance work can only be scheduled on weekends. Weekend works ensures minimal traffic impact to residents and businesses. The City will always notify the public before weekend work is scheduled on your street.

13) How long will it take before I can drive on the freshly paved street?

As soon as the job is complete you can drive on the freshly resurfaced street. Do not drive on the fresh pavement until it is rolled over and compacted (approximately 45 minutes).

14) How often does the City of Austin perform preventive maintenance on a street?

Preventive maintenance in the form of Mill and Overlay, Thin Surface Treatments and Crack seals are scheduled as appropriate based on the street condition , planned utility work , and time since last maintenance.

15) After you pave the street, why do you come back and tear it up?

Prior to scheduling paving on any street, the City coordinates scheduled work with both city and private utilities. As public right-of-ways are shared by many utilities, there is always a chance of some unforeseen event such as leaks or ruptures in water, wastewater, gas lines, or new service requests, that may effect the street.