

Driveway Repair Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. How long do driveway repairs take?

The entire process can take up to 3 weeks. First, crews will shut down one of the exits to your driveway to reconstruct the concrete apron (driveway entry and exit points). Each apron takes about a week to fully dry. During apron repair, residents will still have access to the driveway through the other open apron(s). Once apron repairs are completed the driveway will be repaved.

It is important that residents do not move any barriers or use a closed driveway exit while the concrete apron is drying. Driving over a newly poured apron before it has fully set can cause permanent damage and may delay the project or require additional repairs.

2. Will driveways be repaired with concrete?

No, driveways will be repaired using asphalt. Asphalt can be applied in a fraction of the time compared to concrete and is easier for residents to maintain in the future.

3. When will the paving happen once a driveway is approved?

The contractor will reach out to the neighborhood contact 24-48 hours in advance of paving work. Contractors will make every effort to stay on schedule, though **delays can occur due to the weather**. Any delays will be communicated through the neighborhood contact.

4. What if there are abandoned or non-working vehicles in the driveway?

If you know of any abandoned or inoperable vehicles in your driveway, please contact your Council District office before repair work begins. All vehicles must be fully removed from the driveway before crews can apply asphalt. Vehicles parked entirely within a resident's private driveway or garage may remain in place, but they must not be moved until at least 24 hours after the paving is complete, to allow the asphalt to be properly cured. If needed, the contractor will courtesy tow vehicles to a nearby street parking spot, but this takes time and can cause delays. Failure to remove cars in a timely manner can cause delays or cancellation of work.

5. Would I need to trim trees or bushes before work begins?

Yes. Any trees or bushes that extend into the driveway will need to be trimmed before work can begin. Homeowners can trim these themselves or allow the contractor to do it. If no arrangements are made, the contractor will trim as needed to access the work area. Please note, we are not responsible for the appearance of any unplanned trimming.

6. Would driveway repairs affect my trash collection?



No. Trash collection should continue as usual. Trash collection schedules are considered when scheduling work. In the event your trash is not collected during the driveway repair process, please contact the Sanitation Department directly.

7. Will driveway repairs prevent water pooling in my driveway?

In many cases, damaged or broken driveways allow water to seep through cracks, which can hide underlying drainage issues. Once a new, smooth asphalt surface is installed, water flows according to the natural slope of the driveway. The Driveway Repair Program repaves driveways at their existing slope, which often directs water toward private garages. It is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that any drains on their property are clear and functioning properly. **Neither the City of Philadelphia, PHDC nor its contractors are responsible for any water pooling, seepage or other drainage issues or damage arising from or after the repaving of a driveway through The Driveway Repair Program.**

8. Does the Driveway Repair Program address drainage problems?

No. The Driveway Repair Program repaves existing shared driveways and concrete aprons but does not modify slopes or address drainage systems, pipes, or sewers. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining any private drainage infrastructure, including keeping drains clear of debris to prevent pooling or flooding. **Neither the City of Philadelphia, PHDC nor its contractors are responsible for any water pooling, seepage or other drainage issues or damage arising from or after the repaving of a driveway through The Driveway Repair Program.**

9. Who is responsible for maintaining shared residential driveways? Can homeowners expect the City to fund repairs with NPI bond funds?

Driveways, alleys, and retaining walls are considered private property and are not maintained or owned by the City of Philadelphia. Responsibility for upkeep lies with the property owners who use that infrastructure. In group/shared driveways, all homeowners who share deeded access must generally split the costs for repairs or reconstruction.

The Neighborhood Preservation Initiative (NPI) provides a unique flexible funding source for the one-time repair of eligible driveways. NPI's Neighborhood Infrastructure Driveway Repair program allows the City to repave shared driveways serving five or more residences, subject to eligibility criteria (e.g., driveway size, condition, and neighborhood petition requirements). Again, this is a one-time funding opportunity and does not reflect ongoing City maintenance responsibility. Once the available NPI funds are spent no more driveways will be repaired. Ongoing upkeep must be managed privately by homeowners.

