

HOW TO

# Choose the Right Asphalt Contractor



Making Sure Your Investment Is Sound

Asphalt Paving

## Glossary of Terms

### ASPHALT - THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR BUSINESS OR HOME

There are few things you can do to make your business or home look better and more professional than installing a fresh new asphalt surface. When a visitor approaches your property the rich black surface and smooth texture leaves an outstanding impression.

Asphalt pavement is also known for its durability and resilience. It is this strength which makes asphalt pavement the best and most popular choice for applications such as driveways, parking lots, roadways and airstrips. If properly maintained, it need not be replaced for forty to fifty years.

Asphalt pavement is also the most commonly recycled material in the United States — before paper or plastic!

### NOT ALL ASPHALT CONTRACTORS ARE EQUAL

In order to enjoy the many benefits asphalt has to offer, it is essential that it be properly installed. This means you must hire **ONLY** an experienced and professional asphalt paving contractor. You must ask the right questions and take the time to educate yourself on the process.

Be sure to talk with them about materials, the importance of proper compaction and the equipment they use, the differences in a steel drum roller vs. pneumatic roller (Dirtworks has both), how an asphalt paver works, and the experience of the operators.

If the asphalt contractor can't educate you on the process, or won't take the time, move on. Dirtworks has been in the business for many years with over 50 Years of experience and will thoroughly educate you on how it works.

### TIPS FOR HIRING A PROFESSIONAL ASPHALT PAVING CONTRACTOR

Here are a few more tips to consider when hiring an asphalt contractor:

- ✓ Beware of "traveling contractor" scams or any contractor who rings your doorbell and claims to have some "leftover materials" from another job.
- ✓ Always work with registered, bonded, adequately insured and licensed companies like Dirtworks.
- ✓ Always check the contractors Better Business Bureau Accreditation and Rating. Dirtworks has an A+ Rating.
- ✓ Always get a list of LOCAL references and check them. Ask references about the quality of the contractor's work, their attention to details and if the work was completed on time. Dirtworks will even give you addresses so you can go and see the actual work yourself.
- ✓ Know your budget and work with your contractor to fit your budget and needs. Dirtworks has worked with thousands of customers and can make your budget work.

We have seen too many consumers ripped off by contractors with bad intentions. The asphalt industry is like no other. The opportunity to skimp on preparation and materials is almost overwhelming. Hire only the best to ensure you get a quality long lasting job.

Hire the LOCAL professional contractor that has your best interest in mind. Contact Dirtworks at **508-240-5541** or visit our website at **www.dirtworkscapcod.com**.

#### SUBGRADE

The soil prepared to support a structure or a pavement system. It is the foundation for the "pavement structure."

#### BASE

This is the material installed prior to asphalt paving on top of above the subgrade. Base materials can be compacted stone and/or a recycled asphalt or concrete base with its own unique recipe. Lack of adequate base material is a primary cause of pavement failures.

#### RECYCLED BASE

Asphalt or Concrete that has been crushed to 1.5" minus size and works for a great subbase. Recycled base has consistent tight compaction and has been used for many municipal, commercial, and private projects. It is a preferred material by Engineers.

#### ASPHALT PAVEMENT (HMA, Blacktop)

Asphalt pavement is made up of stone (aggregate), sand, additives and liquid (petroleum) asphalt. Liquid asphalt is used as the binding material in asphalt pavements. The pavement – once mixed – consists of 90 to 95% aggregate and sand, and 5 to 10% asphalt or bitumen.

#### ASPHALT MAT

A term used to describe the fresh asphalt surface behind the paving machine. Most commonly used to refer to the asphalt during the laydown and compaction phase of construction.

#### ASPHALT ROLLING / COMPACTION

Compacting the freshly laid asphalt mat the proper amount with an asphalt roller (before it cools down) is the final step of the paving process. The final quality of the asphalt pavement relies heavily on this process.

#### ASPHALT OVERLAY

The process of paving over existing asphalt.