

SMSA Recommendations

for Annual Spring Evaluation of Private Driveways and Culverts

The following are recommended maintenance practices and are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Spring is the recommended time for inspection before the annual roadwork is completed. SMSA's road contractors often do driveway work while they are on site, which greatly reduces the owner's cost.



Fall cleaning after the leaves have fallen is also a great time to clean ditches and culverts and often makes Spring cleanup easier.

DONE	MAINTENANCE ITEM TO CHECK
	Check if dirt, mud, or fabric is showing through the top layer which indicates gravel has worn down and needs replacement.
	Look for tire tracks, ruts or sunken areas deeper than 1-2 inches where water can pool.
	Identify potholes or areas that hold water and require filling and grading.
	Look for loose stone build-up at the edges.
	Inspect the crown, or center of the driveway; it should have a 4% to 5% cross-slope (higher in the middle) to force water into the shoulders.
	Walk the driveway during or right after heavy rain to spot standing water, oversaturation or to note drainage problems.
	Ensure side ditches are clear of leaves, debris, or sediment so water can flow freely away from the sub-base.
	Inspect culverts at the driveway entrance to make sure they are not clogged or crushed.
	Look for signs of washout where rushing water has cut channels into the gravel.
	Inspect the driveway for excessive grass or weed growth, which can reduce the stability of the gravel surface.
	Determine whether additional drainage trenches or outlets could improve runoff by directing water into adjoining wooded areas where appropriate.
	Determine whether a water diversion (such as a conveyor belt, water bar, or similar drainage feature) would help direct runoff into roadside ditches.