

# The Deep Rooted Issues

## OF UNFILLED CRACKS - PART II



### Crack Sealing Is The Most Important Thing You Can Do....

At Pavement Maintenance Specialties, we teach our customers that the best thing they can do for their asphalt parking lot or driveway is to crack seal annually. It truly is the single most important thing you can do to protect your parking lot or driveway and add many years of life to the existing pavement. It will also save you thousands of dollars over the long haul. Let's break down the disruptive, deep rooted issues that are caused by unfilled cracks.

## UNREPAIRED CRACKS TURN INTO POTHOLES:

### How Potholes Are Formed:

They are caused by the expansion and contraction of ground water after the water has entered into the ground under the pavement. When water freezes, it expands. If the water freezes and thaws over and over, the pavement will weaken and continue cracking. The water enters through open, unsealed cracks in the pavement.

### Potholes Lead To Safety Issues For Drivers:

When potholes form as a result of unrepaired cracks, it can lead to some very serious and dangerous issues. Safety becomes compromised for both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Some of these issues include, but are not limited to, tire blow outs and wheel damage, steering system misalignment, exhaust system damage and internal injuries and impact pain. When these safety issues occur and are left unaddressed, it can lead to law suits against homeowners and corporations.

### Potholes Compromise Pavement Strength And Integrity:

When potholes form as a result of unrepaired cracks in the pavement, and then are left unaddressed, it could lead to weakened pavement and structural integrity issues. Sink holes can develop, subbase can be softened or weakened and havoc is wreaked on the root area as well as the rest of your parking lot. This can lead to costly repairs to your parking lot, base and subbase, costing thousands to tens of thousands of dollars or more than it would cost had the crack repair been handled at the onset.

## HOW ARE POTHOLES REPAIRED?:

### Potholes are repaired by filling the area with new asphalt. There are 3 common methods:

Pavement Maintenance Specialties offers 3 common methods to pothole repair:

- Pothole Patching (sometimes called city patching) - This is where the hole is filled with cold patch asphalt or hot mix asphalt and tamped/compacted. Only the hole itself is filled, commonly used as a temporary (up to one year) fix.
- Surface Patching - This is where hot mix asphalt is placed in the hole and also over the surrounding asphalt. This repairs not only the pot hole, but also some of the surrounding asphalt that has been compromised in the formation of the pothole. Surface patches can be edge sealed to provide even more protection to the asphalt and newly placed patch. This repair will generally last at least 1 year, and often times longer.
- Mill Patching - This is where the pothole and typically the surrounding pavement is ground out (1.5 - 2 inches in depth) and new asphalt is put in its place, then compacted and edge sealed. This is a long lasting repair, generally more than 18 months.

