

# PROBLEMATIC THE 411 HYDROSTATIC

Why are there white/brown streaks throughout my newly sealed parking lot?

## **WHAT IS HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE?**

**THE PRESSURE EXERTED BY A FLUID AT EQUILIBRIUM AT A GIVEN POINT WITHIN THE FLUID, DUE TO THE FORCE OF GRAVITY.**

### **What are the white/brown stains on my parking lot or driveway?**

Groundwater build-up can be identified by the white, chalk-like markings coming through the cracks in your parking lot or driveway. Groundwater is caused by hydrostatic pressure.

Pyrite is a common mineral present in sedimentary rocks, including those used to create asphalt. Pyrite can produce rust stains. While these rust stains do not compromise the integrity of your pavement, they are often visible and a common source of complaints.



### **What can I do about this problematic hydrostatic pressure?**

One of the most effective ways to address groundwater is to install drain tile under your asphalt parking lot or driveway (or concrete sidewalk) to capture and release underground water.

For rust stains (pyrite) unfortunately, even a sealcoating application will not prevent the rust stains from coming through over time. Rust stains may be eliminated by removing and replacing the asphalt.



### **So there is no problem with the sealcoating material or asphalt?**

Not at all. Often times we will have customers call and tell us that something is wrong with the sealer we applied or that the asphalt is bad. The truth is that the real issue is with the land your property was built on - this is normal and natural. There are solutions to help mitigate the groundwater from properties that have high water-tables, as mentioned above, however there is nothing wrong with the materials you paid for - so no need to worry.

If you have drainage issues like water seepage or rusting, reach out to a team member at Pavement Maintenance Specialties. We are happy to evaluate your situation and provide you with options that will help you to eliminate the problematic, hydrostatic pressure you are experiencing.

