



PennDOT Maintenance First

Shoulder cutting removes excess material and debris from unpaved shoulder areas. This improves drainage and allows water to leave the roadway.

This process requires equipment such as graders, trucks, brooms, belt loaders or wheel loaders, and rollers. Workers move in front to spot and mark or remove objects which could potentially damage equipment, such as sign posts, glass and large rocks.

The grader follows the workers, cuts excess material from the shoulder and places it in a pile to be picked up by a loader. It is deposited into a truck to haul to a fill site. Sweeping to clean excess material remaining on the roadway is the next piece of the operation. Finally, the roller follows the loading operation to compact or stabilize the exposed soil.

This is an important highway maintenance operation. When drainage systems do not function properly, water collects on the roadway, creating potential icing conditions in the winter and weakening pavement, causing potholes.

SHOULDER CUTTING

PennDOT Maintenance First

Although Pennsylvanians see PennDOT crews on the roads year round, they may not always realize the scope or importance of all of the work we do.

More common maintenance activities such as Shoulder Cutting don't receive as much public attention as building new bridges or highways, but they are integral to the maintenance of the state's 40,000 roadway miles and 25,000 bridges.

For more information, or for additional copies of the Maintenance First cards, please contact PennDOT's Press Office at 717-783-8800 or your local PennDOT District Press Office.

The Maintenance First Series was developed to help educate our customers about our more common maintenance operations.



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