



PennDOT Maintenance First

Shoulder grading involves the shaping and stabilizing of unpaved roadway shoulder areas.

This maintenance activity can be completed year-round, but is usually programmed between April and November. A shoulder grading crew utilizes about 10 workers on the road, graders, dump trucks, a belt loader, a roller and usually a street sweeper.

PennDOT grades shoulders to eliminate the drop-off between the roadway and the shoulder and to allow water to drain away from the road surface. If ruts are allowed to form and remain on the shoulder, water can enter and damage the edge of the pavement.

The outside edge of the shoulder is shaped toward the road. The loosened soil is then spread over the shoulder to fill low areas and ruts. High areas are then cut with another grader. Any excess soil is picked up by the belt loader and loaded into trucks for use at another site. Finally, the shoulder is paved or the soil is compacted with a roller and the pavement is swept.

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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 Grading 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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