



PennDOT Maintenance First

Mechanized patching is used to patch roads with extensive pothole damage or with large areas of cracked pavement and depressions. It also improves the smoothness of the road surface.

This maintenance activity is usually completed during the summer but can be accomplished during colder weather as road conditions allow. The crew typically requires between 13 and 15 workers on the road, several dump trucks, a paving machine, a roller and a tack-coat applicator.

Mechanized patching involves six specific steps—marking the area that needs patched, cleaning the area using a street cleaning broom, filling any large holes or low areas with patching material, compacting the material, applying a layer of asphalt over the marked area and compacting the area with a roller.

If workers did not perform mechanized patching, the damaged road surface would further deteriorate, forcing PennDOT to completely rebuild the road or perform other, more costly corrective measures.

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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 Mechanized Patching 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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