



PennDOT Maintenance First

Each year, PennDOT line painting crews apply more than 1.8 million gallons of yellow and white traffic line paint to highways to help guide motorists.

This amount of paint is approximately enough to fill 435 four-foot deep, 12-foot diameter, above ground swimming pools. PennDOT starts painting the traffic lines in early summer. By the time this operation is completed in October, PennDOT crews will have painted more than 122,000 miles of lines, enough to circle the globe nearly five times.

PennDOT paints primarily road and highway dividing lines, but also paints some timing bars for state police, STOP road markers and some railroad crossing marks.

The weather must be warm and dry for painting because rain, high humidity or temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit will increase the normal drying time of between 90 and 120 seconds.

The PennDOT line painting crews' equipment heats the paint to about 120 degrees Fahrenheit and then sprays the material on the road. While the paint is still wet, beads made of recycled glass are automatically applied to provide reflectivity.

PennDOT estimates that it uses approximately 12 million pounds of glass beads for line painting each year.

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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 Line Painting 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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