



## PennDOT Maintenance First

Pennsylvania has some of the oldest bridges in the country, with their average age at 50 years. Preventive maintenance is extremely important in extending the life of structures throughout Pennsylvania as well as the nation.

Poor structure condition is one of the nation's most pressing transportation issues. A good preventive maintenance program can enhance a bridge's life cycle.

PennDOT inspects all state bridges at least once every two years. Based on inspection results or structural needs, PennDOT crews do bridge replacements or structural repairs to steel or concrete components. Some PennDOT districts cast and build their own beams in the winter so they can use them for building in the summer.

Bridge cleaning is an important element of the state's Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program. The deck and substructure must be kept clean, with the drainage systems free of debris. PennDOT mandates that most bridges be cleaned annually.

PennDOT cleans over 17,000 bridges each year.

A basic bridge cleaning crew is comprised of a foreman, equipment operator and four crew members. Required equipment includes a crew cab, dump truck, sweeper and flusher.

**BRIDGE MAINTENANCE & CLEANING**



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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 Bridge Maintenance & Cleaning 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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