

P&T Products

Manufacturer of Hot Pour Crack & Joint Sealants

Avoid Flakes With a "Less is More" Approach

Overview: I recently viewed a discussion on social media about which hot-pour crack sealant provides the best adherence to traffic paint. Many contractors who weighed in specifically mentioned P&T Products, which is very flattering. Although, the truth is, traffic paint and seal coat are not flexible materials like crack sealant. Therefore, over time, these materials will flake off crack sealants.

Why does this happen and what can be done about it?

Challenge: Hot pour crack sealant is made to be flexible. It flexes, expands, and contracts with the movement of the pavement. Traffic paint and seal coat, on the other hand, do not move, flex or bend. As the crack sealant is adapting, paint and seal coat are likely to crack and flake off over time.



An analogy to demonstrate this point is to paint a balloon. Allow the paint to dry, blow up the balloon, and then deflate the balloon. Do this a few times to mimic the movement of the crack sealant throughout the year. What happens? The paint cracks and flakes off. The same is happening on the pavement.



Solution: This phenomenon is unavoidable. It will occur using any manufacturer's crack sealant, traffic paint or seal coat. But it can be made less noticeable. I am a fan of applicators using a shoe or a squeegee when applying crack sealant. The less sealant that is on the pavement means less surface area for paint or seal coat to be applied on to of that crack sealant that may later flake off.