How to Repair Asphalt Driveway Cracks

Cracks are inevitable on asphalt driveways. But a quick repair can add to your home's curb appeal.

Nothing can ruin the look of your asphalt driveway like a huge crack running down the middle of it, so you'll certainly want to repair any big cracks that mar the driveway and fix any smaller cracks before they turn into big ones.

Many homeowners can take on driveway crack repair themselves, although to ensure the job is done right you should consider hiring a professional asphalt driveway contractor

Asphalt driveway preparation

Before you start fixing an asphalt driveway crack, you have to prepare the area you plan to repair. You don't want to make the crack any deeper, but you do want to clean up the edges so you can be sure that you fill in the crack completely.

Start by using a chisel to remove any jagged pieces at the edge of the crack so you create as smooth a line as possible from one end of the crack to the other. Then take a brush to the crack to remove all the large pieces of debris. Finally, use compressed air to force out the remaining fine particles, leaving a completely clean crack.

Repairing an asphalt driveway

Experts say regular sealcoating may slow down the need for asphalt driveway repair.

Repairing small asphalt cracks is much like repairing small cracks in concrete, except you'll use an asphalt-based crack filler. Be sure that the asphalt area is completely dry before you begin, then just fill in the crack using a caulking gun and even out the area using a trowel.

For larger asphalt repairs, first fill in the crack with crushed gravel until the crack is only two inches deep. Then pour in cold patch asphalt repair compound. Use a metal tamper to even out the area then apply more compound if needed, and repeat until you've completely filled in the crack.

Editor's note: This is an updated version of an article originally posted on March 5, 2013.