

# Asphalt Sealing & Paving: Buyer Beware

Each year thousands of homeowners across the nation are scammed out of money by fly by night asphalt sealing or paving contractors. Many are migratory to the area, usually out of states that pass through your hometown claiming to have the best deal around. But don't be tempted by impulse or the extreme low price. That choice may cost you more money in the long run with no other alternative but to have been added to the list of annual statistics. Below are a few of the most frequently seen scam identifiers and should alert the property owner that he or she is about to be swindled.

**1. We have some left over material from a job we did close by.** Most contractors will never have a substantial amount of material left over from any job. A truly educated and reputable business owner knows to a very small discrepancy how much asphalt or asphalt sealer is needed for each job.

**2. No company name on vehicle, equipment or clothing.** If there is no company name posted anywhere on the individual's equipment or clothing, he or she is most likely not

proud of their work and does not want you to be able to track them down or remember who they are.

**3. Our asphalt sealer is oil based.** Never apply a petroleum product to protect asphalt. Petroleum will eat away and soften up asphalt. In addition this product has no sealing capabilities and is extremely hazardous to the environment.

**4. No visible tank or equipment.** If the contractor has all the equipment necessary to seal your pavement in the back of a pick-up truck or van, you should consider another contractor. Most reputable sealing companies will have at least a 300 gallon sealing tank that is towed or self contained on a vehicle.

**5. Out-of-state license plates.** Never select a non-local company for asphalt sealing or paving. If anything goes wrong with the job or you as the property owner have any concerns, you will never get this person back to look over their work performed.

Consider these solutions when selecting an asphalt sealing or paving contractor.

**1. Get at least 3 proposals.** This

way you can compare each company to see what they have to offer and how that fits your specific needs. From there you can feel more comfortable about the contractor you are about to choose.

**2. Ask to see prior jobs completed or references.** This way you can evaluate with your own eyes and ears how effective the company has been in the past with not only the service provided but their ability to please customers.

**3. Make sure they are fully insured.** Mistakes happen, you want to be assured that you are protected in the event of any problems.

**4. Do not always select the cheapest company.** Just with anything else, the least expensive is usually the least effective. Be sure to read the literature they provide, visit the company website if applicable and ask smart questions.

If you take note to some of the items listed above and ask a lot of questions you will effectively reduce your chance of being bilked by these morally bankrupt individuals that put the CON in contractors.

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