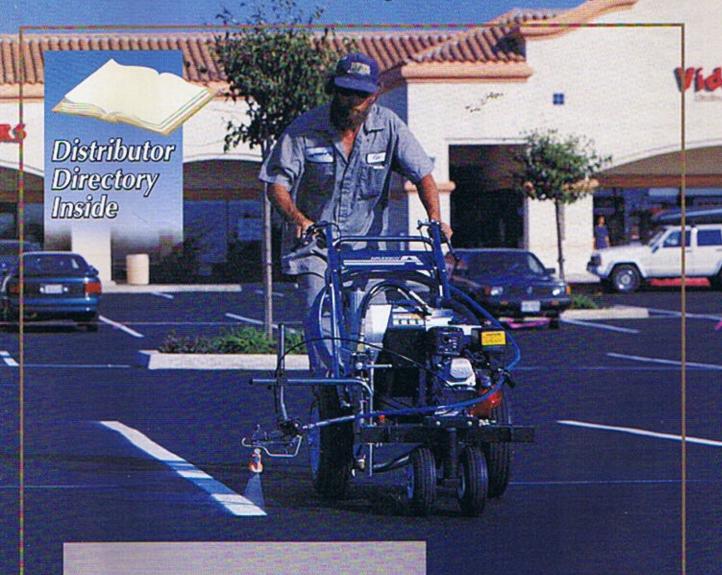
Serving contractors who work on pavement



May 1999 Volume 14/Number 4

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 - Striping running tracks Pavement marking research update





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Cover: Kyle Seidler, Ben's Asphalt & Seal Coating, Santa Ana, CA, uses the Sure Stripe 6000 airless pavement marking machine to stripe parking stalls at this California mall. Photo courtesy Airlessco by Duratech Co., Moorpark, CA.



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Fabrics on a roll

Best fabric installation requires proper core storage and attention to core problems

By Mounque Barazone

toring of fabric rolls and handling of those roles can affect fabric placement and also how well the fabric performs over the long term.

Improper fabric storage, for example, can cause numerous problems from moisture and ultraviolet rays.

Damage to the plastic wrappers that protect the rolls during storage and transport allows moisture and the sun's UV rays to reach the fabric, breaking down the fibers in just a few weeks. And when the fabric gets wet, it creates steam during hot mix laydown, which will cause stripping of the asphalt from the fabric due to a poor bond.



Poor storage results in wet cores, which creates installation problems.

Another problem that often results from poor storage is wet cardboard cores, which create two installation problems.

First, the cores become weak and break. Second, the wet ends of the cores shred and tear up with mechanized equipment using cones that grab the cores.

Often the whole roll can be installed before losing the tensioning capability, allowing the roll to spin freely. This causes excessive wrinkles and increased labor.

Planning around cardboard cores

Since
there are
many different manufacturers of fabric, the contractor needs
to check
more than
just if the
fabric meets
the specifications,

Each manufacturer might use different diameter cardboard cores, from 3 in. to 6 in., to roll the fabric on. Equipment cones

on fabric laydown
machines should be
checked to make sure
that the diameter of the
core will fit on the
cones of the contractor's
equipment. Not all
cones fit all cores.

Thickness of the cardboard cores also is important. Some manufacturers have learned to use thicker cores, 3/4 in. 1 in., to insure core strength so

that the core will not break during installation.

Some manufacturers still use thin drainage fabric cores which



Fabric on cores that are too light cause rolls to sog in the middle, creating installation problems.

are not suitable for installation by equipment. Often the weight of the fabric on these thinner cores can cause the roll to sag in the middle during installation, causing wrinkles.

The thin core might break, possibly causing an accident if it jumps off the machine. It also can create the potential for injury as the workers must pull the fabric to remove the roll from the oil that is already down and the fabric has stuck to.

Fixing core problems

The simplest way to fix core problems should they occur is to obtain an aluminum (much lighter) or steel pipe slightly smaller than the diameter of the fabric core and about six inches shorter than the fabric width to allow the cones to grab the core



Photos courtesy Gooteville Apparatus Co

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Reinforcing cores using aluminum or steel pipe can make damaged cores easier to use.

without hitting the pipe. This will reinforce the core from breaking and sagging. Having more than one pipe of the width being used will speed installation. Preload the rolls so the new roll can be loaded and the tractor or truck can be on it's way while the other pipe is retrieved. If one end of the pipe is cut and welded into a rounded point, the pipe can more easily be pushed or pounded through a roll that the core is already broken on. This makes the roll useable, avoiding wasted fabric.

Mounque Barazone is president of Geotextile Apparatus Co., San Diego, CA. He has written articles on paving fabric and its installation for Pavement, including "Effective Use of Geotextiles," February 1998; "Placing Paving Fabric," March 1998; and "Fabric Placement," May 1998.



Proper placement of fabric roll on placement machine on a front-end loader.

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Starting out or changing roles

To begin fabric placement, or when a roll is finished, the laborers will cut the wrapper off the new roll. They will load the roll into the machine (right), pull the fabric down, stretching it under the brushes (bottom right), and place it in the tack, holding it in place as the tractor lowers, the machine slowly moving forward to keep the fabric tight (below).

As the machine makes good contact with the road, speed is increased. The laborers can then brush the overlap, gather up waste cores, fabric, wrappers and either move to the side of the road for clean up later or put in a following truck.







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