

Scrap Tire Marketing Program

Revised 1/19

RUBBER MODIFIED ASPHALT FACT SHEET

What is rubber modified asphalt?

Rubber modified asphalt is composed of traditional asphalt modified with crumb rubber derived from scrap tires.

How can rubber modified asphalt be used as a paving material?

Rubber modified asphalt can be used as a binder in a variety of applications. It can be used in dense, gap, and open-graded hot mix asphalt for surface courses and for thin overlays. It also finds use in spray applications as a stress absorbing membrane (SAM) and stress absorbing membrane interlayer (SAMI).

What are the benefits of using rubber modified asphalt?

- Increased pavement life
- Higher resistance to oxidation and rutting
- Decreased temperature susceptibility
- Increased resistance to cracking
- Decreased road noise
- Reduced maintenance costs due to higher durability and performance
- Environmentally friendly reuse of scrap tires

Will using rubber modified asphalt paving materials be more expensive?

Initial costs are typically higher than traditional materials. However, the ability to use thinner lifts, longer pavement life, and reduced maintenance costs often offset the difference.

Will pavement workers be exposed to dangerous fumes?

There have been numerous studies conducted addressing this issue that have found rubber modified asphalt to increase potentially hazardous fumes compared to conventional asphalt, but rarely exceed the permissible exposure limits.

Will rainfall runoff leach dangerous chemicals into the environment?

Current studies, though limited, indicate that runoff from rubber modified asphalt paving materials will not be an issue for human health or the environment.

