

Snapshots from the Sea-to-Sky . . .

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Pothole repair a priority

Weather-created potholes develop on the Sea-to-Sky Highway and other highways and streets across the province, mostly in the winter and early spring. Potholes are caused by the expansion and contraction of water in small cracks that develop in the road surface. When water freezes the pavement bulges. It then thaws and returns to its original position. With a few cycles of this freeze/thaw 'flexing' and traffic driving on the surface, the pothole expands in size and depth. The more the pavement flexes, the faster it begins to break. Weather-developed potholes are different from construction-related potholes, which generally are caused by heavy tracked equipment operating on the pavement, or by the rock that comes from construction blasting. Pothole repair is a priority for both maintenance and construction crews, who act quickly to patch the holes.

***P.S.** Potholes constitute a safety hazard for drivers and every effort is made to repair them as soon as they are identified. Roads today are being built to reduce their moisture capacity, while researchers are working to develop a better, more durable pavement. Researchers also have improved cold-patch asphalt so that patches last longer.*



The workers pictured above have cleaned the hole of debris and are using a hot mix which will be compacted once they have filled the hole. Both hot and cold patching is used on the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project. Cold-mix pothole repair is roughly the equivalent of a dentist using a temporary filling to fill a cavity.

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project *Improving safety, reliability and capacity*

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