



CONSTRUCTION

and Materials

TIPS



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Sawing Concrete Pavement

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The department continues to have uncontrolled full-depth cracking in new concrete pavements that require saw joints. This applies to both longitudinal and transverse cracks. These uncontrolled cracks greatly decrease pavement life and are usually the result of not sawing soon enough, deep enough or both. A properly sawed joint produces a weak plane that generates a full-depth crack at the desired location.

Joints must be sawed as soon as this can be done without major spalling of the saw cut. Contractors must have sufficient saws and crew available to accomplish this. A backup saw is needed and is required by the Specs. The sawing sequence should follow the sequence of concrete placement. The minimum depth of the saw cut is one-third of the pavement thickness ($T/3$), but may be one-fourth of the slab thickness ($T/4$) when crushed limestone is the coarse aggregate. Widening joints for the sealant reservoir is not time sensitive and can be done at a later time.

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