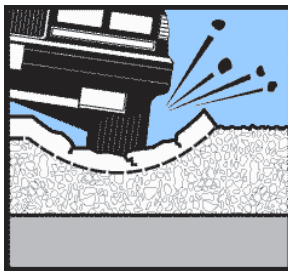
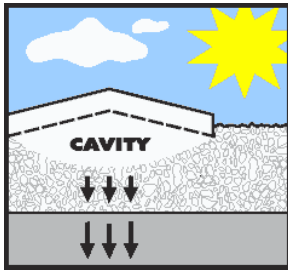
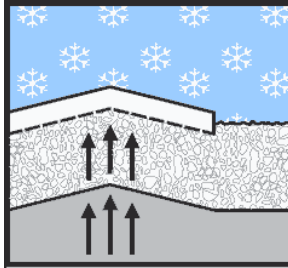
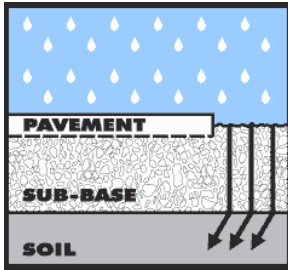


## The Birth of a Pothole

1. Potholes begin after snow or rain seeps into the soil below the road surface.
2. The moisture freezes when temperatures drop, causing the ground to expand and push the pavement up.
3. As the temperatures rise, the ground returns to normal level but the pavement often remains raised. This creates a gap between the pavement and the ground below it.
4. When vehicles drive over this cavity, the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space leading to the birth of another pothole.



Courtesy of the Michigan Department of Transportation  
[www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot)

## Damage caused by potholes

If your vehicle has incurred damage due to a defect on a county road, you may submit a letter or a Damage Claim Form (which can be found on our website or requested by phone). A paid receipt must be included in order for the Road Commission to consider reimbursement of the damage. Please provide all details of the incident, including exact location, date and time, and damage incurred. All claims submitted in writing are subject to a full investigation in cooperation with our legal, maintenance and traffic departments, which normally takes approximately 14 business days. If the incident occurred on a state trunkline (any highway with an I, M, or US in front of it, such as I-94, M-53, etc.), then you should contact the Michigan Department of Transportation by phone at 586-978-1935 or through their website at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot).

Before submitting a claim, please take a moment to read this information on the eligibility of damages to be reimbursed by the Road Commission.

There is a state law (MCL 691.1402 and 1403) which provides for governmental immunity for defective highways in certain cases. You may review these laws online at [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org).

During a damage claim investigation, we review information provided and internal records. Among the issues reviewed is whether the Road Commission knew or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known of the existence of the pothole and whether the Road Commission had a reasonable time to repair the pothole before the damage occurred.

The Road Commission is a public entity with a responsibility to comply with State law and a duty to safeguard the funds provided to it ultimately by the taxpayers. Please remember that the law that the Road Commission must follow is not made by the Road Commission, but instead by the State legislature, and we are obligated to follow the law.

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# Everything you always wanted to know about Potholes



## **The fight against potholes...**

The Road Commission of Macomb County maintains 1,769 miles of roads, including 166 miles of state trunklines, 418 miles of primary roads, and 1,185 miles of local roads. In addition, RCMC maintains over 230 bridges and 523 drain structures, as well as 940 electrical devices (traffic signals, pump stations, overhead beacons, etc.) and over 60,000 signs.

One function of our many responsibilities associated with the maintenance of our roads is the repair of the many potholes strewn throughout our roadways.

Despite a record-setting construction season in 2003 and another successful construction season in 2004, potholes continue to be a problem on the county roads and state highways that we maintain. Due to our large number of older roads in southeast Michigan, it is impossible to get through the spring thaw season without suffering from a seemingly unending supply of these annoying holes in our roads.

The Road Commission of Macomb County maintenance workers patch potholes year-round in their quest to keep our roads safe for the motorists and visitors of Macomb County. Patching is done by hand shoveling an asphalt material into cracks and potholes in the road. When possible, workers back or drive over new patches to compress the material.

Of course, the best long-term solution to the pothole problem is to resurface the roadway. While we have completed a large amount of resurfacing projects, there are many more roads that we are unable to resurface due to time and funding restraints. With the exploding growth in population and traffic in Macomb County, it is difficult to get ahead of the game when we must fight to maintain and construct roads just to keep up with these astounding increases.

## **How can you help?**

It's easy — just pick up the phone and call the RCMC Maintenance Department at 586-463-8671



when you see a large pothole to let us know about it. If the pothole is not an emergency, you can also email us at [info@rcmcweb.org](mailto:info@rcmcweb.org). We can normally have a patching crew taking care of the problem within 48 hours.

## **Road Commission of Macomb County**

**117 South Groesbeck Hwy**

**Mt. Clemens, MI 48043**

**Phone 586.463.8671**

**Fax 586.463.8683**

**Fran Gillett, Chairperson**

**Robert M. Sawicki, Vice-Chairperson**

**Thomas L. Raymus, Commissioner**