



What you **need** to **know** about...

Sealed Roads

maintaining our roads

There are approximately 5000 km of roads within the Southland District Council network: 2000 km sealed, 3000 km unsealed, including over 960 bridges, with 27 townships & a growing population (28,440 as per 2006 Census) who use these roads.

With an annual Roading Budget of over \$23M it is our aim to keep the roads maintained to an acceptable standard and are always looking at ways to improve the network as an asset for the community while keeping to an ever tightening budget.

This includes regular maintenance checks, minor repairs and the prioritisation of roads in need of renewal to maintain and improve the road surface for the user of the roads within the Southland network.

Common Issues

Potholes - Potholes are common in the damp weather where the road is too flat or there is insufficient drainage to draw water under the road surface away, causing a deterioration of the sub-structure. This leads to a depression in the road surface, placing stress on the sealed surface, which ruptures under the strain of vehicles. As vehicles continue passage over the depression it splashes the fines out and a pothole develops. Council encourages the public to advise us when a pothole forms so that it can be attended to. The Council's contractor works within the available budget to patch and repair the pothole, and maintain the remaining road asset.

Debris on Roads - Whether by mishap or misuse debris can often be found on roads around the District, a problem which gets increasingly worse thru the autumn and winter months. It is our policy that the responsible persons remove any debris from the road surface, and where they do not we will have it removed and any costs oncharged to them.

You can find out more on this subject in our "Debris on the Road" information sheet.

Perception and Misconception

Land Transport New Zealand have indicated in published reports that Southland District Council roads are some of the best in the country, exceeding national average rates for territorial authorities for both sealed and unsealed roads.



	Southland Network	National Average
SMOOTH TRAVEL (sealed)	98%	83%
SURFACE CONDITION	97%	96%
ROAD ROUGHNESS (less is best here)	3%	9% >150 counts

It is significant here to point out though that because of the materials available to us to make the roads and the unique climate we live in that the useful life expectancy of our roads can vary considerably when compared nationally.

Monitoring & Inspection

Sealed roads are regularly inspected to determine whether additional maintenance is required. Priority is given to the existing maintenance program and areas the contractor feels require extra attention. Council staff monitor the contracts and audits the standard of work.

Contact our Customer Services on 0800 732 732 if you have a concern about the state of any of our roads, sealed or unsealed, or if you come across a mess.

top tips

Three simple rules for driving on sealed roads:

1. DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS.
2. Avoid driving along the shoulder as it causes edge breaks, damaging the road surface.
3. Share the road and consider how you could be impacting on other users.



If you would like to learn more about Roadings other "Need to Know" sheets you can find them on our website: www.southlanddc.govt.nz



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