



LINN COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT

Dust Control Informational Sheet

Permitting Process & Procedures – Updated for 2023 – PLEASE read thoroughly.

Annual Permit Application

Persons desiring to apply dust control agents to roads are required to obtain a dust control permit. The permit sign-up periods and deadlines are listed below. **Permits will not be accepted after this date.**

Dust Control Options

Private Contractor Applied - Permit applied for through private contractor.

- Calcium Chloride
- Magnesium Chloride
- Lignin Sulfonate
- Soy Oil
- Seal Coat

County Applied – Permit applied for through County.

- Seal Coat

Self-Applied - Permit applied for through County.

- Calcium Chloride
- Magnesium Chloride
- Lignin Sulfonate
- Soy Oil

Retain Existing Seal Coat – Permit applied for through County.

Sign up Periods and Deadlines

Applicators may have an earlier deadline. Please contact them directly.

First Sign-Up Period: April 1 - May 10

- County applied seal coat
- Application by private contractor or self

Second Sign-Up Period: June 1 - July 10

- Application by private contractor or self

Permit Forms

Permit forms are available on the Linn County website, by contacting the County Engineer's office, or by contacting the private applicator. The permit and payment must be returned to the County Engineer's office if wanting new seal coat, retaining current seal coat, or the applicant is self-applying an approved material. For all others, the permit and payment must be returned to the private applicator's business office.

Dust Control Application

First application of dust control material is typically applied the last two weeks of May with the second application the last two weeks of July. This schedule is designed to allow the road crews adequate time to prepare the roadbed to the proper crown and grade by blading, and if necessary, adding rock. Residents should be aware that the dust control area may be



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bladed prior to the second treatment, if deemed necessary by the Secondary Road Department. The minimum footage of dust control may vary between vendors. To remain effective the full season, it is recommended to apply two applications of calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, or lignin sulfonate.

Obligations of Applicant

No obligation to the applicant shall be made by Linn County or inferred by the contractor. Each location treated for dust control shall be marked with flags provided by the contractor or resident at no cost to Linn County. The flags shall be placed on both sides of the road at each end of the dust control area and embedded in the road shoulder, at the break of the slope. The flags shall be placed at the time of permit application. Linn County will not be liable for blading through unpermitted and/or unmarked dust control areas. It is also the obligation of the applicant to fill any depression in their dust control area with loose gravel from the side of the road. Grader operators will be instructed to avoid blading the marked dust control areas unless potholes or washboarding develop and are not addressed by the applicant.

Obligations of County

No obligation to the applicant shall be made by Linn County or inferred by the contractor. It is the Linn County Secondary Road Department's responsibility to maintain the road system in Linn County. If a dust control section should become rough or potholed, Linn County will do corrective blading to repair the rough areas without compensation to the resident for damage to the dust control surface. Linn County may, at any time it deems, add rock, blade the road, replace a culvert or perform other road maintenance activities. All efforts will be made to preserve the treated area, but if the Linn County Secondary Road Department deems the roadwork essential, the work shall be completed. In November, the County will prepare the dust control areas for winter which may include scarifying, blading, and rocking; this does not apply to areas with seal coat treatments, unless the area needs repairs, and the applicant is not going to make them.

Private Applicator Requirements

Pre-Approval

Linn County requires that each business who wishes to apply dust control to a road within the secondary road system, first be pre-approved by the Secondary Road Department.

Insurance and Hold Harmless

Businesses wanting to apply dust control materials must provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance with a minimum of \$1,000,000 in liability coverage and naming Linn County and its employees as additional insured. Businesses shall provide a notarized Hold Harmless Agreement.

Materials

Businesses shall certify that all materials used for dust control are free and clear of toxic materials affecting the environment, the public, and livestock. A listing of ingredients shall be submitted stating the composition and percentage of each ingredient in the mixture. Certification shall state that the mixture meets or exceeds applicable DNR and EPA regulations. The following materials are approved for use as dust control:

- Lignin Sulfonate
- Calcium Chloride
- Soy Oil
- Magnesium Chloride
- Seal Coat



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Permit Applications

The business shall accept the dust control permit applications and collect the permit fee from the applicants. At the end of the sign-up period, the business shall supply the Linn County Secondary Road Department with the signed permits, check for the permit fees collected, and a spreadsheet with the applicant information in the format requested.

Seal Coat Treatments

A road with seal coat applied shall remain classified as an unpaved (gravel) road and will continue to be treated as an unpaved road for the purposes of embargoes and snow and ice removal. The applicant will be responsible to maintain the surface, at the applicant's cost, as directed by the County and as specified in the permit. If the applicant does not maintain the surface, the County may take steps to revert the affected sections of road back to gravel. The County will not provide any reimbursement to participating residents in the event a seal coat application is damaged by the County's road maintenance activities. If a resident discontinues participation in the program, the County may take steps to revert the affected section of road back to gravel.

Each year, the seal coat areas may be evaluated by the Secondary Road Department staff to determine what, if any or all, will need to be re-treated that season. You will be notified, and if repairs are needed, you will be required to obtain a retain permit and make the necessary repairs, or the treated road will be reverted to gravel. At any time of the year, the Linn County Secondary Road Department may send a letter of notification to the applicant requesting repairs of the seal coat surface. Any area not properly maintained, as required by the Linn County Secondary Road Department, will be reverted to a gravel surface, and the applicant may apply for a permit to have another seal coat applied the following year.

MC-3000 Seal Coat:

- MC-3000 is a liquid asphalt cut with kerosene or diesel. It is more viscous than MC-70. This product, applied over MC-70 to create a multilayer surface, is commonly called chip seal or seal coat.
- MC-3000 is black. The final seal coat may end up gray or tan depending upon the source of the limestone chips used for wearing surface. Oxidation turns it to a gray color over time no matter the original color of the chips used.
- A seal coat will initially have dust from the limestone chips used for the wearing surface. Once excess and loose chips 'kick' off from traffic and weather, the surface dust is minor.
- The road should be solid and have proper shape (crown) before application of seal coat.
- Maintenance (pothole patching) is the responsibility of the resident. Patch material may be picked up at shop locations with a current year permit. After the first year, the permit needed is called a retain permit.
- The service life for seal coat varies widely depending upon maintenance, road stability, weather, and traffic. First seal coat applications have a relatively short service life. Second and third seal coats, applied over existing seal coats that are intact and stable, have a much longer service life. No warranty is provided with the application of seal coat.
- The Secondary Road Department reserves the right to tear up seal coat when it has a negative effect on traffic.



MC-3000 Seal Coat was applied over the crushed stone road approximately two years prior to the picture for dust suppression. Weather and traffic have turned the Seal Coat to a grey color with minimal dust. Proper maintenance by the owner may result in a long-lasting product.