



Pothole Information

To report potholes located in West Jordan City call (801) 569-5700.

Each year how many potholes does West Jordan repair?

West Jordan City Public Works fills approximately 1,400 potholes every year. The heaviest pothole seasons are winter and spring.

What causes potholes?

Potholes appear when snow and ice melt as part of Utah's seasonal freeze-thaw cycle. Water seeping into cracks loosens the asphalt allowing movement to occur. Even small cracks allow moisture to seep into the asphalt and the underlying gravel and dirt. During the winter, the water freezes at night and turns to ice, causing expansion and allowing for more movement and cracks. As the temperature rises and the ice melts, the size of the cracks increase and further weaken the pavement section. As the pavement section weakens, it does not support the vehicle load from above and the pavement and sub-surface deteriorate. When the asphalt and the sub-surface weaken, the asphalt breaks in pieces and potholes appear.

What steps does West Jordan City take to prevent potholes?

The city's crack seal program is the largest preventative measure for potholes; this process closes up the cracks. We also overlay and repave streets every year. Unfortunately, with over 800 lane miles of road, and a limited asphalt budget, it is impossible to eliminate all cracks in all city streets

What goes into the formula for filling potholes?

There are two types of asphalt used to fill potholes, Winter Cold Mix or Summer Hot mix.

The winter cold mix is cold, *temporary* asphalt, aggregate and oil that is used in cold, wet weather.

The summer hot mix is permanent, emulsified asphalt tack that bonds with the pavement and is used in the warm weather. This application works permanently when the holes are tacked, squared out and properly compacted. This application cannot be used with water or freeze prior to being applied or it will not bond properly.

Asphalt is a petroleum product and, therefore, it is subject to the same fluctuations in pricing as fuel.

Why do we get more potholes some years and not others?

Some years are more wet and cold than others. The freeze thaw cycle causes most of the potholes. The more it freezes and thaws the more the water can seep into cracks and expand during freezing, causing the road to move and actually pop out of its original shape. Also, if heavy equipment is driven over pavement it makes the cracked brittle asphalt buckle and to pop out.

Salt Lake City has one of the worst freeze thaw cycles in the continental United States.

Who do I contact if I see a pothole?

Contact West Jordan Public Works at 801-569-5700 or email publicworks@wjordan.com. The city appreciates citizens reporting potholes and depends on these reports in addition to the city crews in locating potholes.

What is the average response time to fix potholes?

West Jordan City Public Works Operations responds within two working days after receiving notification. If a citizen reports that the pothole is dangerous or is causing problems for traffic, we will respond immediately.

How much does the city budget for road repairs?

View the Public Works-Public Service page within the [City budget](#).