

Some Facts About Glass in Reclaimed Asphalt

An excerpt from a recent study.....

“Researchers in Canada give new hope to the use of recycled glass in asphalt pavements, and have lauded the integration of glass as a component of road manufacturing in the industry’s overall efforts to limit green house gas (GHG) emissions, etc.

According to a press release, research team expects the integration of glass in base courses to improve drainage and insulation to extend the life of asphalt pavements.

The concept of using crushed glass as an aggregate isn’t new. In fact, the industry has been using the term “glasphalt” to describe this process for decades. Studies to test the performance of glasphalt began in the 1960s and ’70s, when test pavements were laid in 33 locations in North America. The studies showed that the high angularity of crushed glass, compared to rounded sand, enhanced asphalt’s stability, when crushed to a proper size and used in proper proportions. Other benefits include low absorption, low thermal conductivity offering enhanced heat retention, and specific gravity, meaning more volume of asphalt cement (AC) per ton.

With a better understanding of the behavior of glass aggregates, it’s possible to take better advantage of the use of recycled glass. There is also being developed a new kind of asphalt mix that includes glass. This new mix gives the opportunity to recycle more glass than in a conventional mix.”

Admittedly, this last load that was delivered appears to have bigger chunks of glass in the mix than previous loads and the supplier has been notified about this. Their recommendation was to use a packer on it and so that is what the maintenance staff did. And because we had to rent the packer for a minimum of ½ day, they opted to do the remaining areas where the reclaimed asphalt had been spread, simply as a precaution.

We thank all of those people who brought this issue to our attention!