urbanvision

Highway defects in Salford

Salford City Council

Delivering excellence in the built environment

Pothole inspections and repairs

What is a pothole?

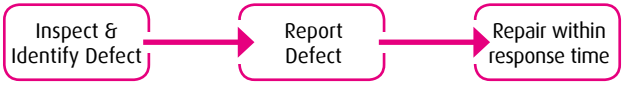
Potholes are shallow pits or holes in the road, caused due to wear and tear over time or weathering. High severity potholes will most commonly appear in late Winter or early Spring, depending upon weather conditions, after a series of freeze-thaw cycles.

How are potholes formed?

Rainwater penetrates through cracks and other flaws in the road. In colder weather conditions, when sub-zero temperatures occur, the water which has drained through to the road base or foundation layer freezes to form pockets of ice. When water freezes to become ice, it expands. This expansion, or increase in volume, begins to displace the road pavement surface. When the temperature subsequently rises above freezing, the pockets of ice melt leaving voids beneath the road surface. A succession of freeze-thaw cycles gradually increases the size of these voids, progressively weakening the road pavement layer. The issue is then made worse with high volumes of traffic driving over the voids causing them to collapse.

Who repairs Salford's Roads?

Urban Vision inspects and repairs potholes on behalf of Salford City Council, carrying out Safety Inspections, both routine and emergency, on a regular basis. The location and depth of a pothole determines what action is to be taken. The basic process that is implemented is as follows:



How often are Salford's roads inspected?

The number of programmed inspections carried out per year relates to the road location and classification. Table 1 highlights the different types of road classifications and the number of inspections that are carried out per annum.

Table 1 Frequency of Inspection

Carriageways, Footways and Cycle Tracks	Safety Inspection Frequency (per annum)
Defined High Footfall Areas	12
Classified - Principal Roads	4
Classified- Non-Principal Roads	4
Unclassified Roads	2

If a pothole is identified during an inspection, how quick will it be repaired?

There are guidelines in place that determine when a pothole is actionable and in need of repair. These guidelines are based on the depth of the pothole, if the sharp edge is greater than 25mm on a footway / 50mm on a carriageway, and the potential danger posed to the general public.

Table 2 Repair response times

Danger	Response time	Depth of pothole(Footway)	Depth of pothole (Carriageway)
Immediate danger to life and limb	Within 2 hours	n/a	n/a
Hazardous defects – reported by third party	Within 24 hours	Greater than 25mm	Greater than 50mm
Hazardous defects noted on routine inspection	With 28 days	Greater than 25mm	Greater than 50mm

If you find a pothole, how do you report it?

If you believe you have identified an area of road or pavement that is potentially dangerous and is in need of repair, you can contact us directly by phone, e-mail or the online reporting service.

Call: 0161 909 6505
E-mail: highway.services@urbanvision.org.uk
Online Reporting Service – Request a service: http://www.salford.gov.uk/online.htm

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Stuart Whittle
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