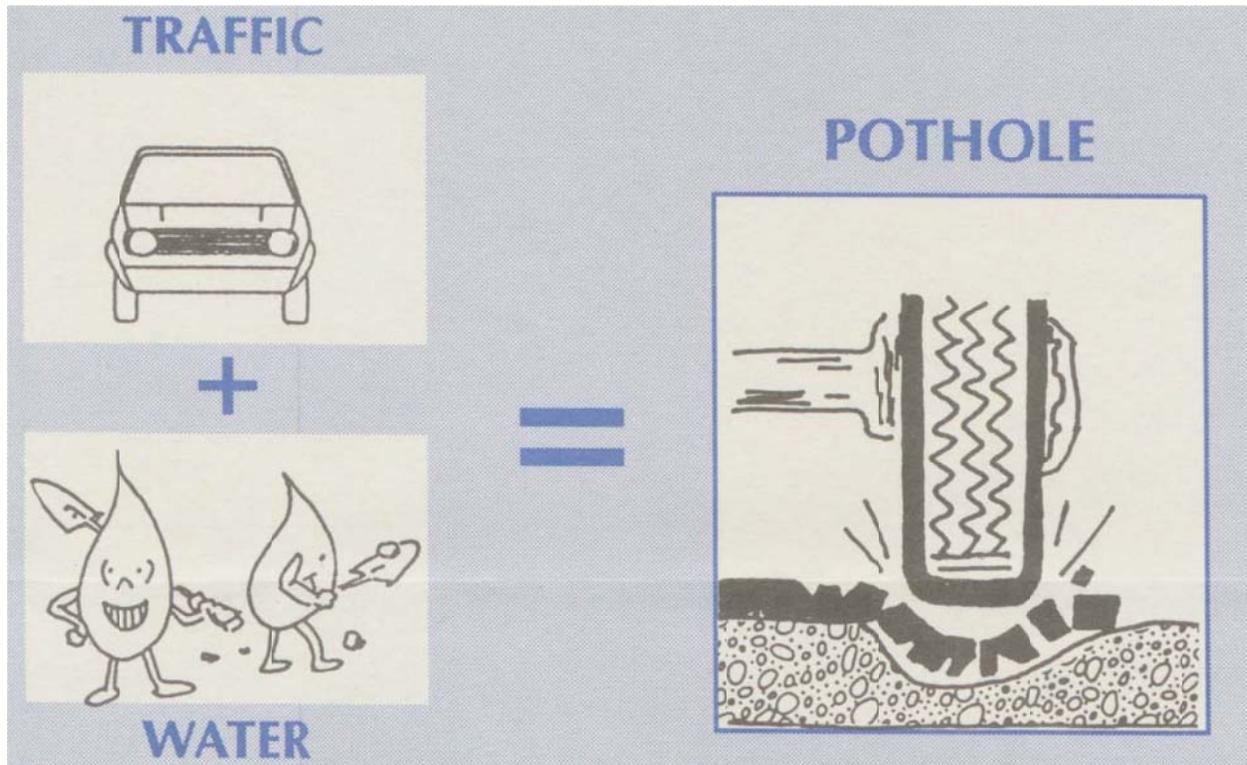


POTHOLES - THE "HOLE" STORY

Late winter and early spring bring forth not only warmer weather and green grass, but also the development of potholes in our City streets. Two factors are always present in the development of potholes and pavement failures.



With repeated trips over a pavement, small hairline cracks develop into larger, visible cracks which eventually separate giving water a path to travel into the road base. Cracks can also be caused from age and expansion and contraction due to freezing and thawing.

Water is the "enemy" of good pavements and can worsen cracked pavement problems. Under good conditions, water will run off the pavement into a gutter or ditch and quickly drain away. In cold climates, an additional problem arises due to the freeze/thaw cycles that occur. The water in the pavement and road base freezes and like a bottle of pop left in the freezer, it expands and pushes the pavement apart.

If you notice a persistent pothole, please call the location in to the Street Maintenance Division at 715-839-6257. Do not hesitate to report a pothole more than once, since they can open up again quickly after being filled due to the repeated traffic over the hole, snow melt runoff, and changing temperatures.