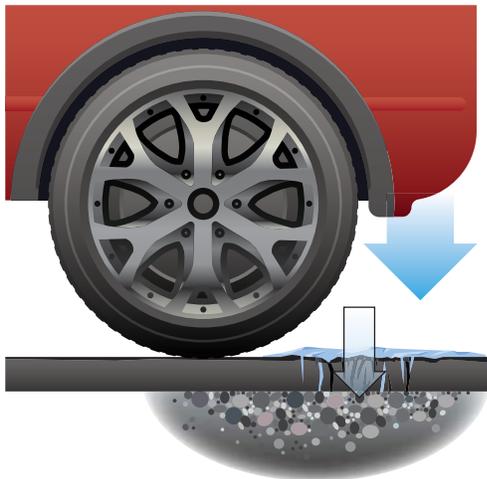


How do Potholes form?

The City of Calgary fills over **15,000 potholes** every year. The annual pothole repair program is an essential part of keeping traffic moving safely and efficiently through the city.

The creation of a pothole

Potholes form when snow melts into cracks in the asphalt and then freezes, expanding in the cracks.



- 1** Water seeps through cracks in the asphalt and pools on top of the frozen soil beneath the road surface.



- 2** Water freezes and expands, causing the road surface to rise. This is typically called frost heaving.



- 3** The ice melts leaving a void beneath the asphalt.



- 4** As cars drive over the asphalt, the weight of the vehicles collapse the surface into the void formed by the melted ice. This causes the pothole to form.

How The City fixes potholes



1 Then City crews remove any loose material, debris and water from the pothole. This is done using equipment like shovels and picks to remove debris and a torch to remove water.



2 Next a tack coat is applied to the pothole to allow asphalt to stay in the pothole better.



3 After the tack coat is applied the pothole is filled with asphalt.



4 Once the pothole is filled it is compacted using a roller. The asphalt is compacted until it is level with the roadway.

To help locate and quickly repair potholes, Calgarians are encouraged to **contact 311** or **download the 311 app** to report a pothole.