



1891 Albert Street North
P.O. Box 37120 Regina, SK Canada S4S 7K3
Phone: 306-337-4440 • Fax: 306-337-4441
www.pythonmfg.com • info@pythonmfg.com

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Python Offers Unique Solution to Pothole Problem

Regina, SK Canada This year at CONEXPO-CON/AGG, Python Manufacturing will be introducing a revolutionary solution to the never ending job of repairing the potholes on our roads.

The Python 5000 is a one-person operated pothole patcher that can permanently repair the average pothole in about two minutes. It is the only one-person operated pothole patcher that uses all standard hot or cold asphalt mixes. The operator can either fill up at the nearest asphalt plant, or use a cold mix which is readily available and can be stored indefinitely. The operator then drives at highway speeds to the work area where the Python 5000 cleans out the pothole, applies tack oil, fills the hole with asphalt, rakes it and then packs it down to make a long-lasting patch.

Les Hulicsko, Python president and developer of the Python 5000 says, “The patches are of such high quality that they can outlast the pavement around them.”

The 5000 operates in all kinds of weather – meaning road repairs can begin earlier in the spring or even continue all winter where there isn’t a great deal of snow. Hulicsko points out, “With this machine, you can get a lot more roads in good shape in a lot shorter time.” A single operator using the Python 5000 can cover approximately three times as much ground, or fix three times as many potholes as a crew using traditional methods. And if a city were able to prolong the life of the street or highway by using the Python 5000, the savings would be substantial.

Even more important, the operator of a Python 5000 stays safely inside the machine during the entire operation. A crew, on the other hand, is exposed to the traffic, which regularly results in serious injuries and fatalities.

Python Manufacturing Inc. also manufactures a full line of top-quality street sweepers, with more than 40 years of experience in building quality pavement maintenance equipment and innovative farm equipment. The Python 5000 pothole patcher can be seen at CONEXPO-CON/AGG in booth #909 in the Blue Lot.

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Discussion Paper: Saving \$\$\$ With a
Python 5000 Pothole Patcher

Contact: Marj Strandlund
Marketing & Communications Manager
Phone: 306-337-4440 Cell: 306-533-3720
marjs@pythonmfg.com

Saving \$\$\$ With a Python 5000 Pothole Patcher

"America's \$1.75 trillion public highway system is in jeopardy. Years of wear and tear, unrelenting traffic, an explosion of heavy trucks, deferred maintenance, harsh weather conditions, and soaring construction costs have taken their toll on America's roads."

- From Transportation Research Board's report, "Rough Roads Ahead"

How can a Python 5000 Pothole Patcher help?

The lifespan of roads are significantly extended if you repair the potholes – especially if you fill them before they get too big. The Python 5000 pothole patcher is the right machine for the job. It can be used year-round, and can fill three times as many potholes as a crew using traditional methods.

Even more important, the operator of a Python 5000 stays safely inside the machine during the entire operation. A crew, on the other hand, is exposed to the traffic, which regularly results in serious injuries and fatalities.

¹Cost of building a mile of two-lane highway - \$5.6 million

²Cost of resurfacing a mile of streets/roadways

Urban core - \$5.37 million/Ln-Mi

Other urban - \$1.98 million/Ln-Mi

Rural - \$0.77 million/Ln-Mi (\$1.54 million/mile for a two-lane highway)

³Cost of repairing a mile of highway with a Python 5000 - \$1,500.00

How much can you save?

Interest-only savings from delaying resurfacing five miles of urban street for five years at 5% interest - \$3.2 million

Using a long-term picture of 15 years, and depreciating the cost of resurfacing the highway over 10 years, assume that you prolong the life of the highway for five years by patching the potholes. After 15 years, you would have brought down the cost of maintaining a mile of road from \$400,000.00 per year to \$100,000.00 per year (assuming you are patching potholes 10 of those years). After 15 years –a province would have **saved \$22.5 million on 5 miles of road.**

Add the 5% interest compounded annually on each year's accumulated savings, and the

savings increase to approximately **\$32 million** on 5 miles of road after 15 years.

Other savings:

Cost of lawsuits from people who have damages resulting from unrepaired potholes.

The "Rough Roads Ahead" report says unrepaired potholes adds \$335 annually to typical vehicle operating costs. In urban areas with high concentrations of rough roads, extra vehicle operating costs can be as high as \$746 annually. There are 240 million registered vehicles in the United States. If you multiply that figure by an average cost of \$540, you arrive at a staggering figure of \$130 billion in increased repair costs.

1: Nova Scotia government, (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/highways/fag.asp>)

2: A study done in 2003 by the Capital District Transportation Committee in Albany, NY. I have added a 10% inflationary factor to the 2003 costs.

3: A Python 5000 Pothole Patcher costs about \$250,000.00. Although we have original Patchrites that are still operating well after 25 years, we'll give it a lifespan of 10 years, for a cost of a \$25,000 per year. If you add in the cost of the operator at \$100,000 per year, as well as material, maintenance, etc. you arrive at a cost of \$150,000.00. Even if you add on the cost of another driver and a truck to deliver asphalt to the pothole patcher, your costs would top out at \$300,000 per year. Working 200 days per year with the Python 5000, and patching a mile of road per day, the cost of patching a mile of highway is \$1,500.00. (The actual distance a Python 5000 could cover would vary depending upon the number of potholes to be patched. One mile is a very conservative estimate of how much road it can cover even if the road being repaired has a lot of potholes.)

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