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Reclaiming and Storing Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) in a KM Hotbox

Reclaiming “cold chunked” asphalt and storing hot mix asphalt in your KM Hotbox can be done efficiently and effectively by following some guidelines and suggestions. Some of the factors that should be considered when reclaiming or storing in the KM hotbox are quantity of asphalt, quality of asphalt and surrounding (outside) temperature. Remember that these are suggested averages. As a user of the equipment it will be best to develop your own knowledge of reclaiming and storing asphalt by frequency of usage and the “trial and error” method.

Suggested temperatures (⁰F) for storage of HMA

2+ Ton 300⁰ F

1 ½ Ton 275⁰ F

1 Ton 275⁰ F

½ Ton 275⁰ F

Depending on the quality of asphalt, heated storage of hot mix can last up to three days (72 hours). (It is strongly recommended to keep hot mix no more than 48 hours.) Before working with stored hot mix the KM Hotbox thermostat should be turned to 325⁰F at least one hour prior to work.

Scenario 1:

User loads a 4 ton hotbox full of virgin plant HMA in the morning on Friday, the asphalt temperature setpoint should be set at the material specified temperature ($\approx 325^{\circ}\text{F}$). The user finishes the day and has a remaining 2 tons of HMA still available in the hotbox and does not plan to use this material again until Monday. Simply shut the unit down and then set it to begin reclaiming 8-10 hours prior to the time HMA will be needed for Monday. The initial asphalt temperature setpoint for this reclamation should be 275-300⁰F. On Monday morning increase the temperature to $\approx 325^{\circ}\text{F}$ at least one to two hours prior to use. Once the load has been reclaimed once, depending on the quality of mix, most likely you will not be able to reclaim it again without severe losses in quality.

Scenario 2:

User loads a 4 ton hotbox full of HMA in the morning on Monday, the asphalt temperature setpoint should be set at the material specified temperature ($\approx 325^{\circ}\text{F}$). The user finishes the day and has a remaining 2 tons of HMA still available in the hotbox and does not plan to use this material again until Tuesday. In order to extend the quality of the HMA and keep it heated for use the next day, simply reduce the temperature to meet the chart above. On the morning of Tuesday the user should increase the temperature to $\approx 325^{\circ}\text{F}$ at least one to two hours prior to use. Discard any remaining material after 3 days.