



# **MATERIALS & ASPHALT PAVEMENT SOLUTIONS**

Houston, TX  
April 28 - 29, 2026

# **Asphalt Terms, Definitions, & Applications**

Chuck Fuller

Texas Asphalt Pavement Association

# Safety Shares



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Drainage

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Ride

Quality

FWD

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TOM

Award Winning Pavements

SAC

Perpetual Pavement

Superpave & Dense Grade

1A's, 1B's & SB's

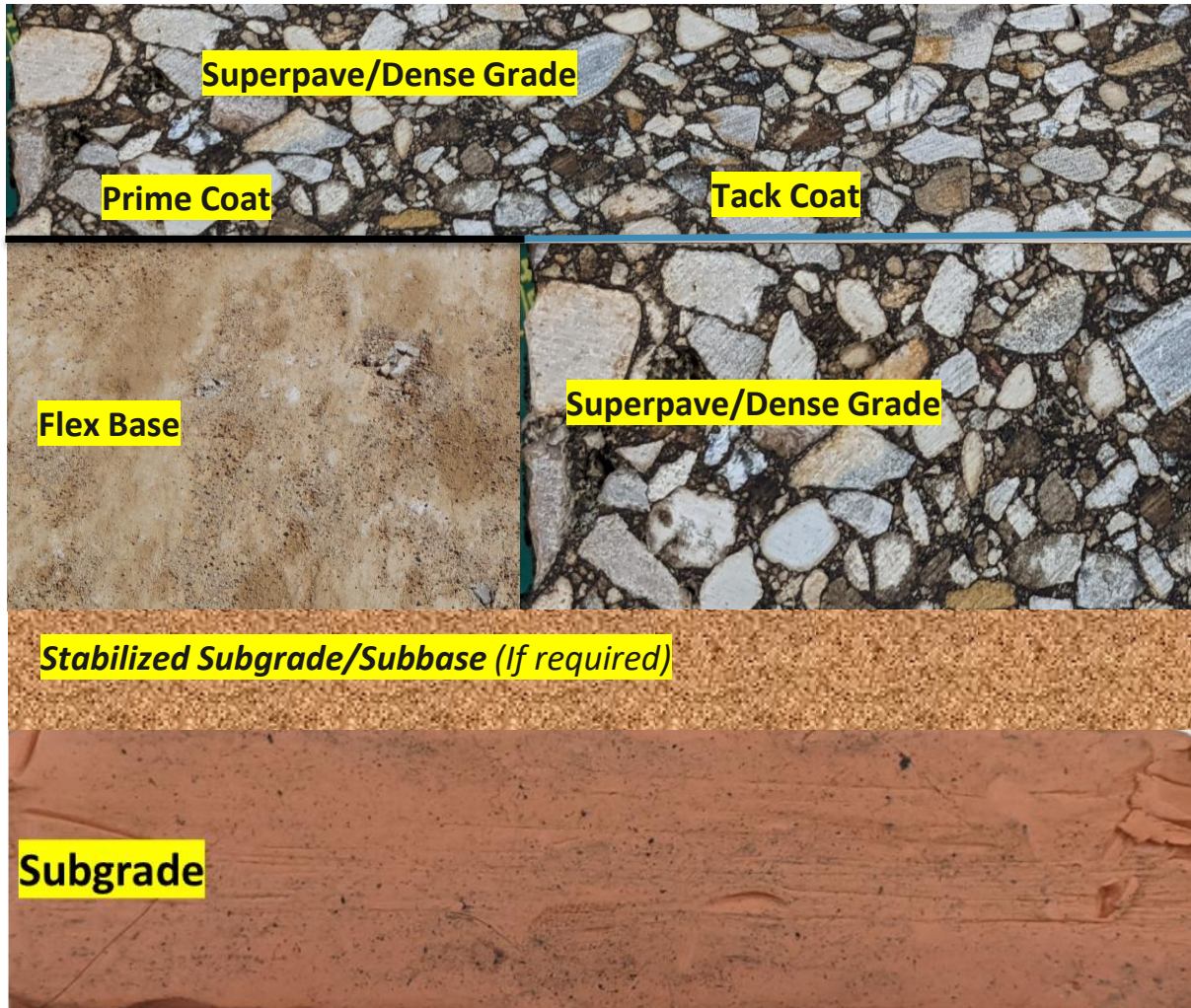
Stage Construction

TRAIL

# Terminology



# Typical Pavement Section



*Pro User Tip: Always consider stage construction of asphalt layers.*

Surface  
+  
Base  
+  
Subgrade  
=  
Flexible Pavement





## TXAPA Definitions and Terminology Pertaining to Asphalt Pavement Production and Construction (\*ASTM Definitions)

**AGGREGATE** : A hard inert granular material of mineral composition such as sand, gravel, slag, or crushed stone, used in pavement applications either by itself or for mixing with asphalt mixing in graduated fragments.

**COARSE AGGREGATE** : Aggregate retained on the 2.36mm (No. 8) sieve.

**COARSE-GRADED AGGREGATE** : One having a continuous grading in sizes of particles from coarse through fine with a predominance of coarse sizes.

**DENSE-GRADED AGGREGATE** : An aggregate that has a particle size distribution such that when it is compacted, the resulting voids between the aggregate particles, expressed as a percentage of the total space occupied by the material, are relatively small.

**FINE AGGREGATE** : That passing the 2.36mm (No. 8) sieve.

**FINE-GRADED AGGREGATE** : One having a continuous grading in sizes of particles from coarse through fine with a predominance of fine sizes.

**OPEN-GRADED AGGREGATE** : One containing little or no mineral filler in which void spaces in the compacted aggregate are relatively large.

**WELL-GRADED AGGREGATE** : Aggregate graded from the maximum size down to filler with the object of obtaining an asphalt mix with a controlled void content and high stability.

**AIR VOIDS** : Empty spaces (air pockets) in a compacted mix surrounded by asphalt coated particles, expressed as a percentage by volume of total compacted mix.

**APPARENT SPECIFIC GRAVITY, (G<sub>sa</sub>)** - The ratio of the mass in air of a unit volume of an impermeable material at a stated temperature to the mass in air of equal density of an equal volume of gas-free distilled water at a stated temperature.

**ASPHALT\*** : A dark brown to black cementitious material in which the predominating constituents are bitumens which occur in nature or are obtained in petroleum processing. Asphalt is a constituent in varying proportions of most crude proportions.

**ASPHALT BINDER** : A term utilized in the Superpave Mix Design System to classify the grade of asphalt cement used in an asphalt mix based on expected performance under specific environmental conditions (high and low temperatures) and anticipated traffic loading. It can be either modified or unmodified asphalt cement as long as it complies with AASHTO M 320, Specification for Performance Graded Asphalt Binder.

**ASPHALT CEMENTS\*** : A fluxed or unfluxed asphalt specially prepared as to quality and consistency for direct use in the manufacture of asphalt pavements.

**ASPHALT LEVELING COURSE** : A course of hot mix asphalt (usually a relatively fine graded asphalt aggregate mixture) of variable thickness used to eliminate irregularities in the contour of an existing surface prior to placing the subsequent course.

1

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# MATERIALS & ASPHALT PAVEMENT SOLUTIONS



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**Ok, Now you know what is a ...**

*341M DG-C SAC-A PG76-22 on a TRAIL  
over a DG-B PG64-22 on a lime-treated  
Subbase on top of a Natural Subgrade.*

**Got It?**



**MATERIALS  
& ASPHALT  
PAVEMENT  
SOLUTIONS**

**QUESTIONS?**

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