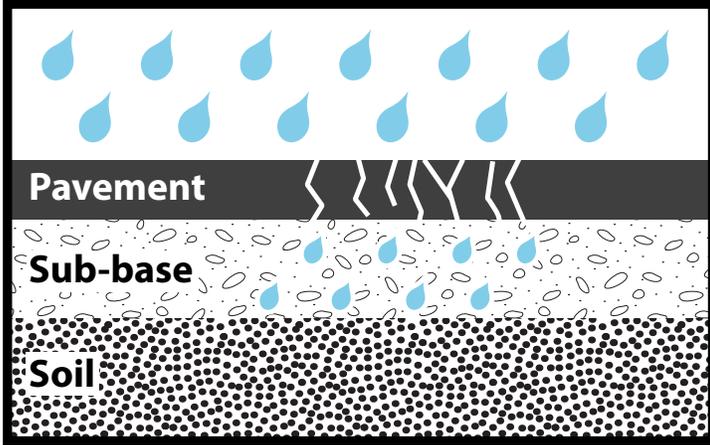
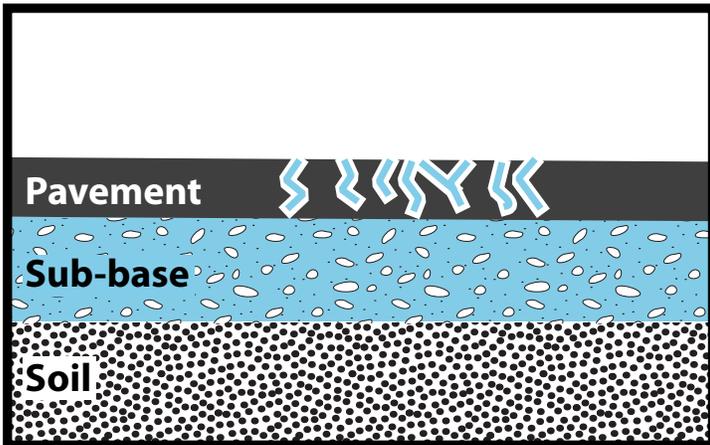


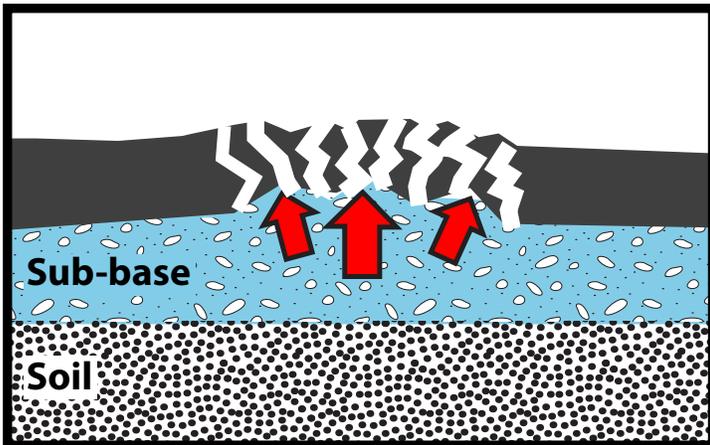
# Anatomy of a Pothole



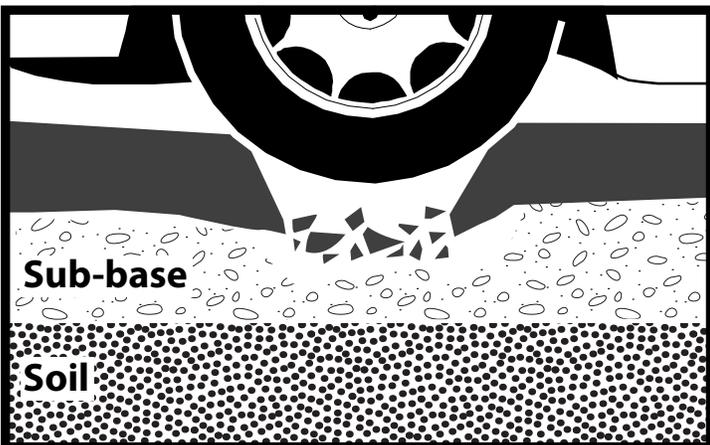
- 1 Potholes start to form when moisture such as rain or snow trickles into cracks and gets under the pavement. Cracks are small at first.



- 2 As temperatures drop, water in the cracks expands, making the rift larger and providing space for more moisture to collect during future thaws.



- 3 With temperature changes from freeze to thaw, more water collects under the surface. When this water freezes it expands, pushing the weakened pavement up and exposing it.



- 4 Once the ice melts, a space is left in the pavement. The weakened pavement can then crumble under the pressure of plows, salt, and heavy truck traffic.