

Liquid Calcium Chloride: Putting a Damper on Dusty Roads

Peckham Industries, Inc. is a leading distributor of LIQUIDOW™ liquid calcium chloride used throughout the region to provide dust control on all types of unpaved surfaces including secondary roads, access roads, parking lots and driveways. Calcium chloride manufactured by Oxychem (successor to Dow) has been used for dust control applications since the early 1920's and has been selected as our product of choice due to the consistently high-quality control standards under which it is produced. For you this means consistent, proven and predictable results. Nothing puts a damper on dust like LIQUIDOW™!

How It Works

Calcium chloride originates as a natural occurring type of brine found in underground deposits. It is processed to remove the impurities to make a purified high strength liquid calcium chloride product. Calcium chloride is hygroscopic, meaning it attracts moisture from the air and surroundings; this helps to keep unpaved surfaces damp and dust down. It also resists evaporation and as a result a single application lasts a long time. Because liquid calcium chloride also produces a strong moisture film, high surface tension and low vapor pressure, it provides a cohesive force that binds aggregate particles together resulting in a hard and compact surface. For the best results unpaved surfaces should be treated with liquid calcium chloride in the spring after the seasonal rains while moisture remains in the ground. A second application in late summer will maintain dust control throughout the fall months and will also help to protect the road from frost heave in the winter.



Road dust in the air is not only a terrible nuisance but it signals two important safety concerns, reduced driver visibility and the beginning of surface deterioration. Once the fine material is lost, the load-bearing aggregate will soon follow resulting in ruts, potholes and washboards requiring costly spot repairs and frequent re-grading to keep the road in acceptable condition. Studies show an untreated, unpaved road with moderate traffic will lose as much as 300 tons of aggregate per mile per year, and as the aggregate is lost, the road deteriorates quickly. Establishing a dust control program utilizing liquid calcium chloride has been found to reduce aggregate losses up to 75-80% thereby reducing unpaved road maintenance costs. Not only does calcium chloride control dust under hot, dry conditions, but the cumulative effect of multiple applications over time improves road stability and reduces frost heave, which once again adds to lower overall maintenance costs. Additional benefits derived from reducing dust using LIQUIDOW™ include cleaner, safer unpaved roads and surroundings and improved local air quality, with no environmental concerns.

The Peckham Way

Peckham Industries, Inc., through its various family companies, has dedicated itself to delivering the highest quality materials and custom solutions to thousands of road construction and maintenance customers, like you, for over 99 years and promises to continue this reputable tradition far into the future. We are committed to utilizing new technologies, developing new standards and employing motivated, knowledgeable professionals to gain your trust and continued satisfaction as a customer. To learn more about our company and our liquid calcium chloride product please contact your local sales representative, www.peckham.com.