

Rockford Blacktop Tour

We saw the quarry and toured the quality control lab. We learned about what they use to fill potholes and pave roads. We learned about hot and cold patch paving material and their advantages and disadvantages. The new product is UPM (Unique Paving Material). We learned that they recycle asphalt, rubber tires and shingles to make better asphalt as well as helping the environment. We learned about how they mix the different sized rocks into the asphalt. They passed around cross section samples of the asphalt so we could see the layers that make up the road. We didn't know that most roads in Rockford have concrete over asphalt. We discussed that snow plows cause a lot of damage to roads. It actually scraps off a top layer when plowing. We also learned that potholes are caused by climate change, poor structure, movement in underlying concrete, and moisture. Brick roads are becoming extinct and they are mostly just for show in shopping areas of small towns.



Different types of rocks used for asphalt



Our tour guide is showing us different types of roads



Nick and Nick checking out a cold patch



The guide is showing the team some recycled shingles



The team is examining the samples of cross-sections of roads



Our tour guide is showing the team a slide show of asphalt



Nick, Nick, and Jimmy excited about the field trip



The asphalt silo



This is a big pile of asphalts from old streets, parking lots, and drive ways.



Everyone is getting ready to see the quarry (Rockford's biggest pothole)



This is the control center to the barrel furnace.



Maggie and Mrs. Speece are going over some of the questions to ask.



This is the control center, asphalt silos, and barrel furnace



The barrel furnace melts the asphalt