

This is the most significant contributor of the ever elusive to define “scarred” or “damaged” appearance often associated with pavement marking removal which has been performed by water blasting. And THIS can be effectively addressed by defining two of the terms we are dealing with.

For UHP Water Blasting purposes, the essence of most, and arguably ALL conflicting ghost lines is the varying *shadow* created by the reduced level of the top of the fines and binders which fill in between the aggregates.

The “it” of this publication is “the vertical distance between the overall average height of the top of the aggregates and the overall average height of the top of the fines and binders as it compares to the Average Overall Height and Average Overall Depths of its counterparts in the immediately adjacent and contiguous pavements”.

Shadows are created to varying degrees by light sources such as sunlight, street lights, vehicle lights, and viewing angle.

There is good and bad news about the treatment of this “shadow.”

First the bad news, then two elements of good news.

The bad news is that in most cases, the marking being removed is harder than the fines and the binders, and as such the water blasting energy is not able to completely avoid increasing the overall average depth of the fines. This is best addressed by the technician regulating the ballistic energies of the water blasting to expire simultaneously as they reach the top of the fines after penetrating through the hard paint. This is a very challenging goal and is comparable to trying to scrape away the clearcoat on a car without affecting the paint beneath. The good news is that great strides have been made in managing those energies to approximate the goal. The other good news is that the defects in the written spec have contributed heavily to cause the extremes of the undesirable results the industry has experienced, and this can be remedied.



By Correcting the spec even in a modest adjustment, and defining a couple of terms to be specific-to-the-application definitions, the department can immediately start to realize a very significant improvement in the average worst of results, and a substantial improvement in even the average best of results.