

## KSTP.COM — 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS

### 'Mobile Microwave' Takes on Twin Cities Potholes

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It's a dirty word in Minnesota: potholes.

The mention of them is enough to make us all cringe. They're so aggravating, a couple of Minnesota men want to heat them with a mega-microwave.

The device is being tested around the Metro.

It looks like a monster-sized microwave on wheels, and it's the same technology only it's much more powerful; it has 50,000 watts of power ready to zap potholes.

A KSTP crew watched the machine target a Plymouth parking lot.

The method is created by two local companies working together: Crius makes the asphalt and Microwave Utilities makes the machine, "It not only heats the material placed in the hole but also heats the surface so when those two bond together, it makes a much more cohesive patch and lasts much longer," says Kirk Kjellberg with Microwave Utilities.

That means a smoother path for safer travel. The new technique only takes six minutes per hole. "It's a very effective tool to maintain these holes all year and fix them once and fix them right," Mark Eliot with Crius Corp said.

Mark Eliot believes the M&M mix, microwave and magnetite, seals potholes better than what we've come to know as the "throw and go" strategy. That's where a sticky hot mix fills craters. MnDOT relies on hot mix right now and is watching the new technology.

All the wear and tear on Minneapolis roadways concerned city leaders enough that they're doubling the number of crews and putting \$1 million more into pothole repairs this year.

Whatever the method, drivers are taking notice, "I think there's a lot of infrastructure that needs to be fixed and dealt with, it's good to see some productivity," Paul Edgar of Minneapolis. The microwave - magnetite mix is called maxphalt.

Anoka and St. Louis Counties are testing it, along with private companies.

The U of M helped out with initial research and development. Since this is in testing phases with private companies it's unclear exactly what it could cost.

Click [here](#) to report a pothole in your neighborhood with "Pothole Spotter."