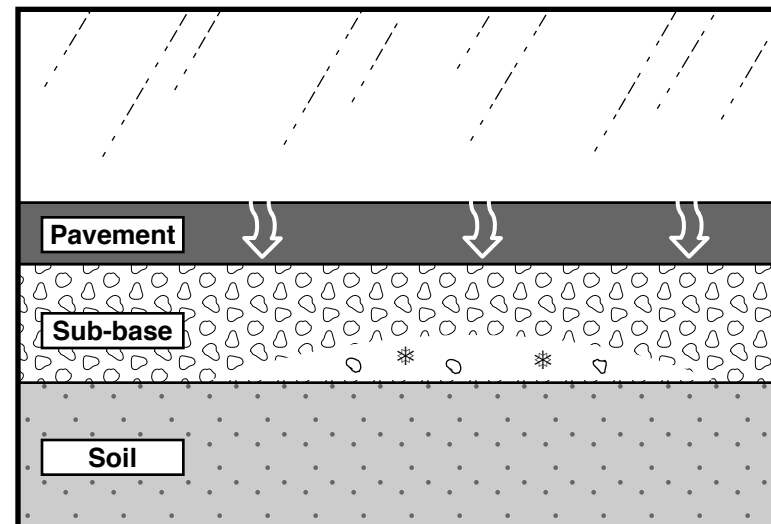
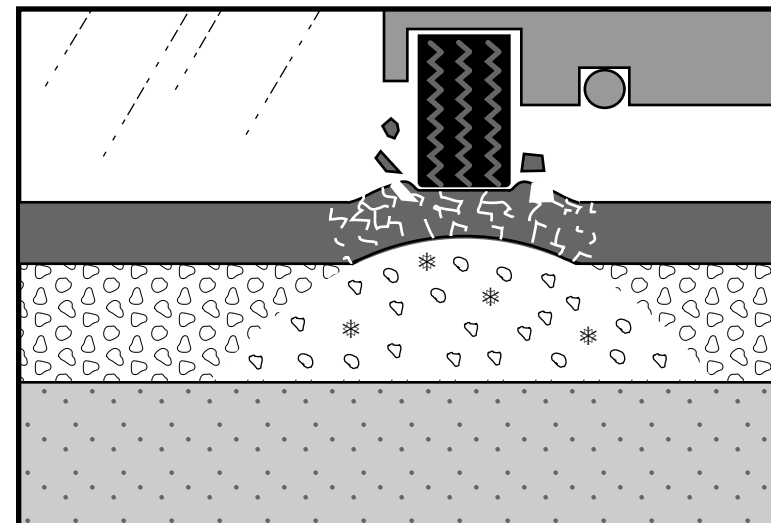


Getting to the bottom

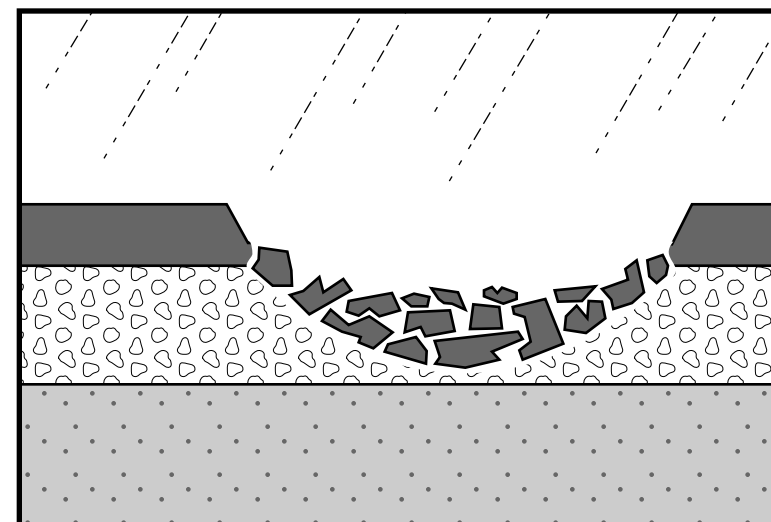
How potholes form



Water from melting snow and ice seeps into the pavement and softens it. During repeated cold spells, the water in the pavement refreezes and expands, breaking up the pavement, on and below the surface.



When the ice melts, it leaves gaps inside the pavement, and the moisture further softens it. The soft, fractured asphalt cannot support the weight of passing vehicles, and begins to break up.



As vehicles continue to pass over the weakened spot, pieces of roadway are kicked out, creating the hole in the highway.