A review of RAP and its use in pavement engineering

Ishraq Hameed Naser *

Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Al-Iraqia University, Iraq.

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Abstract

Due to the expansion of the road network and the increase in trips, particularly with heavy trucks, improving road performance has become significant. Moreover, rising fuel prices and that aggregate natural resources are a challenge and it is therefore crucial to find solutions to these issues, one of which is recycled asphalt. This paper presents types of RAP studies used in the literature reviewed.

Keywords: Asphalt Pavement; Recycling; Sustainable asphalt

1. Introduction

In many countries, recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) is the most reused and recycled material. A mix of aggregates, fines, and binder (bitumen), asphalt plays a key role in helping to connect communities in the short and long term of a region. As a surface material, the advantages of asphalt are that it is flat, which decreases drivers’ fuel consumption and produces lower emissions.[1]. It is silent, eliminating the need to create noise walls; it is safe, offering excellent gripping power; it is robust and non-water-sensitive, improving the pavement’s life; and it is environmentally friendly, being the most recycled material in the U.S. [2] and Australia [3].

Recycling is the mechanism by which materials of pavement existing that no longer efficiently support the traffic are reused. As it is a manufacturing process with environmental and economic benefits, the recycling of pavements can be as a long-term investment alternative. The pavement mixture may be disposed of or recycled as it has reached the end of its useful life. The use of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) is considered an inexpensive and environmentally sustainable process; it preserves natural resources and, compared to virgin asphalt mixtures, can yield comparable structural efficiency. [4]. There are important financial and environmental benefits to the inclusion of RAP with virgin asphalt.[5] and Australia [3]. Usually, 100 percent of the asphalt removed from the sites is recycled in asphalt processing plants, and the asphalt slabs and concrete are also recycled and converted into a new material Recycling helps produce many customized blends of asphalt for a wide range of project types, and we will dive deep below into the benefits and steps of asphalt recycling care.

2. Field Application of Recycling Methodology

The ongoing phase of pavement system design and maintenance and the rising cost for materials of pavement have focus on the approach recycling as a valuable strategy to be measured[6]. Milled materials are also extremely valuable before the pavement mixture has served its purpose. Milled materials, such as recycled asphalt pavement (RAP), can be reused in virgin hot asphalt mixtures to reduce the amount of new material needed [7]. The recovered asphalt pavement (RAP) is removed and treated pavement material containing old gravel and paving binder that has been oxygenated (aged) during field service[8]. Skill and earlier recycling procedures carried out through several organizations need
shown that asphalt pavement recycling is a very useful solution from a scientific, economic and environmental perspective.[6,9-12]. Asphalt pavement hot mix recycling is gradually being used by numerous highway departments in the United States as one of the key recovery techniques[12]. In many countries, recycling is used in particular, and in others, it is a common alternative to traditional milling and resurfacing or excessively rehabilitative thin asphalt treatment. Recycling has been used in Queensland, United States since1990, and an area of nearly 2,000,000 m² has since been recycled. [6]. In Georgia, United States, recycling has also been introduced, it has been used since1991, most of the recycled pavements built with asphalt pavement content reclaimed by 10 to 25 percent[12]. In Iraq, recycling is so important to consider as a rehabilitation option, The lack of high-quality paving materials, the high cost of transportation, and the criteria for highway reconstruction and maintenance throughout the nation establish a compelling need for this cost-effective solution. RAP will be a useful choice in the future, as improving flexible docking will become a prerequisite to ensure economic competitiveness [7]. Figure 1 depicts the recycling process. [13].

![Figure 1 Phase of Recycling](image)

3. The Recycling Advantages

Some of the benefits obtained from the adoption of recycling as a rehabilitation mechanism for pavements are described below:

Recycling will offer big economic savings: Many studies have shown the economic benefits of recycling, [10,9,14,17,18]. Asphalt pavement recycling is the most common form of recycling in the United States. In2002, 30,000,000 tons of RAP were used in hot mix asphalt (HMA), resulting in a $300 million savings [15,20].

Vitality and mineral deposit conservation: the building and rehabilitation of highway asphalts requires a substantial use of valuable and non-renewable natural resources and, in particular, of the components of bituminous mixtures: bitumen and above all, mineral aggregates[17]. This has contributed to the current rapid decline in natural resources, causing the social order to look for alternatives of new sustainable. In asphalt mixtures, the use of high recovered asphalt pavement (RAP) ratios decreases the amount of fresh aggregates and bitumen removed from the earth[18].

Benefits to the environment from long-lasting paving: the application of RAP reduces the quantity of waste produced and helps solve the issues surrounding the disposal of highway building materials [7]. So, from an environmental viewpoint, recycling has a positive impact. [19,20].

4. Systems of Recycling

HMR, HIR, CMR, CIR, and FDR are some strategies for the use of asphalt recycling:

4.1. Recycling OF Mix that Hot (HMR)

[21] The furthermost popular form of recycling asphalt pavements is Hot Mix Recycling, he said In a central hot mix facility, it includes mixing RAP with fresh or “virgin” aggregate, new asphalt binder, and/or recycling agents to create a recycled mix. In a recycled mix, the amount of RAP allowed and requirements as to where the recycled mix should be used in the pavement structure differ by organization. Some departments usually allow 15 percent or less RAP, whereas
others allow greater quantities of RAP. Adjustments in mix design and binder selection were needed for higher RAP concentrations. The suggested guidelines regarding the quality of RAP in a recycled mix are as follows:

- Less than or equal 15%: In a virgin blend the content of the PG binder is the same as the one.
- 15-25 percent RAP: On both the high and low temperature ends, the PG binder should be one grade lower, i.e. PG 64-16 rather than PG 70-10.
- Extra than 25% RAP: To decide the amount of RAP to be used, test and mix the reclaimed asphalt from RAP with virgin asphalt as part of the design process. It is important that adequate material assessment, mix design, construction, and quality control concerns are addressed for higher levels of RAP. It is processed and preserved for potential use once RAP has been transported to a central facility. Until stockpiling, processing can involve crushing and screening the RAP. The stockpiles should be divided and classified by source if large amounts of RAP come from different sources. Figures(2) and(3) describe a RAP distribution mechanism for standard batch plant operations.

![Figure 2](image1.png) **Figure 2** Method of RAP Distribution for Batch Plants [21]

![Figure 3](image2.png) **Figure 3** Batch Plant with Mixer for Pugmill [21]

RAP is immediately added to the mixer. The type of mixer used in this case is determined by whether it is parallel flow, counter flow, or double barrel. Or if a separate layer was needed for the drum mixing phase. Drum mixers are represented in Figures(4),(5),(6).
4.1.1 In-Place the Hot Recycling

[22] (Hot In-Place Recycling HIR) is an on-site, in-place process for rehabilitating degraded asphalt pavements while minimizing the use of new materials.[23] The correction of asphalt pavement distress occurs in the HIR process by heating the existing surface, manually extracting the pavement surface, and substituting the reused substantial on the roadway deprived of take-out it on or after the origin roadway location. According to the primary target of hot in-place recycling, [22] is to repair surface issues that aren’t produced through organizational defects, such as raveling, cracks, ruts, and gaps, as well as shoves and bumps. HIR should not be used under some circumstances, as specified by [6].
None of the lower courses are safe.
- If the binder has been overly hardened.
- Foundation or drainage problems in the base or subgrade are related to surface maintenance issues.
- The thickness of the asphalt surface varies excessively.
- The pavement system is in poor condition and cannot withstand the weight of the mixing train and equipment.
- The concrete is soaking wet.

This method necessitates the use of pre-heaters, heaters, mixers, pavers, and rollers, among other things. A "train" is a term used to describe a set of equipment. Depending on the HIR Recycling procedure used, treatment depths vary from 34 to 3 inches. Surface Recycling, Remixing, and Repaving are the most common HIR processes [21].

![Figure 7 Hot In-Place Repaving Process and Equipment, [25]](image)

HIR has a few advantages over the standard Hot Mix Recycling process as bellow: [6]

- Shortened construction time by completing resurfacing in a single operation, eliminating traffic delays.
- Ease of applying fresh asphalt mix, aggregate, binder, or rejuvenators to an existing asphalt mix.
- Due to hot bonding between joints, ride ability has improved.
- Care of a four-lane road’s most heavily used lane (which is impossible to achieve with standard overlays).

### 4.2 Cold Mix Recycling

RAP, new aggregate (if required), emulsified asphalt or emulsified recycling agent are mixed in a cold mixing plant at a central location without the use of heat. Since the components of the cold mixing plant are relatively compact, they can be installed close to the project site. Modern dump trucks or belly dump trucks are used to carry cold recycled mix to the job site. Cold recycled mixes are mounted and compacted using the same paving stones and rollers that are recycled in hot mix asphalt construction [21].

#### 4.2.1 Cold In-Place Recycling

It's done on the spot, and it typically uses all of the RAP created by the current pavement. When using traditional emulsified asphalts or emulsified recycling agents, conduct pits are usually two – four inches. When additives like lime, asphalt, or fly ash are used to boost the recycled mix's initial force and moisture confrontations, depths of 5 - 6 inches can be achieved. [21].

### 4.3 Full Depth Reclamation

Since this approach relies on the thickness of the current pavement layers, processing depths vary from 4 to 12 inches [21].

Many studies and researches have been conducted in the field and in the laboratory to determine the performance of recycled mixtures, as shown in the table below:
| Reference | Description |
|-----------|-------------|
| [6]       | Seven test sites in Queensland, United States, were chosen from three Hot In-Place Asphalt recycling projects. Each of the test sites was 100 meters long. According to the results of the visual condition survey, Hot-In-Place Asphalt Recycling (HIR) is an effective cure for broken Asphalt surfacing caused by ageing. |
| [12]      | Five projects were selected, including a recycled mixture. The study used virgin aggregates in the mixes, and they were manufactured by the same HMA plant. These projects were exposed to the same traffic and climate during operation. The evaluation showed that both virgin and recycled parts were performing satisfactorily, with no noticeable cavities, scraping, warping or creaking cracking. At a 5% level of significance, the variations between split tensile strength at 25 °C and cylinder pressure values for virgin and recycled parts were observed to be significantly relevant. |
| [19]      | In this study, RAP was applied to the bituminous mixtures at three different levels: 10%, 20%, and 30%. Throughout the testing, there were also control samples that did not include RAP; a total of 104 specimens were tested. These findings showed that as the proportion of RAP in the mix increases, the optimal amount of added binder material for the mix decreases. |
| [9]       | The study was to compare thirteen modes that used wore courses made from recycled materials and ten modes that used wearing virgin blend courses, all of which were developed at the same time in Georgia. The outcomes were joint with persons of the preceding above to create a databank for evaluating overall patterns in the physiognomies and efficiency of recycled mixes versus virgin mixes used in the wore courses made from recycled materials. Based on visual inspection, there was no significant difference in efficiency between virgin and recycled pavements general, so it can be inferred that recycled pavements in Georgia are normally execution besides virgin pavements. |
| [24]      | The study had been combine recycled asphalt mixtures with high mechanical efficiency for surface and structural layers. The study using different rate of asphalt. Lone single form of mixture (thin surface mix) has too low values in terms of Marshall air voids, which correspond to higher bitumen contents (5.8 percent - 6.2 percent). With an increase in binder content, there was a decrease in Marshall stability. |
| [25]      | Two kinds of mixes (surface and binder layers) made from recycled asphalt pavement crushed from a pavement, as well as virgin materials and recycling agents. According to Marshall test results, the asphalt binder in ancient mixes resulted in a “24 to 28” per cent improvement in stability over conventional mixes. Under traffic movements, old pavement surfaces led to further densification, reducing the air voids content to 2%. The use of 1.2 percent reprocessing agent had a substantial impact on the versatility of the recycled mixture, as shown by the improved flow values. |
| [26]      | There were two “hot asphalt mixes” made. The first mix was made up entirely of renewed aggregate and virgin asphalt, while the second was made up of 30% RAP and 70% new aggregate and virgin asphalt. Each mix had 6 compressed models placed after 30 minutes in a water bath at 60 degrees Celsius. It was conducted to that the addition of RAP aggregates and asphalt to the “RAP Mix” increased Marshall stability and decreased Marshall constancy loss as compared to the “Control Mix.” |
| [4]       | Experiment with various shapes and proportions of RAP to see how they affect the properties of asphalt mixtures. This research looked at four different mixtures made up of two types of virgin aggregate (quartzite and limestone) and two different RAP sources. |
[17] Fatigue resistance was investigated, and 4 experimental units were developed, one with a regular mixture as a reference, and three others with reclaimed asphalt mixtures of 20, 30, and 40% obtained from the flexible pavement’s higher stratum. Three binder contents were used in the trial sections: one obtained using the Marshall process, added 0.5% overhead this phase, and the third 0.5% below. For contrast, in the other hand same the mixtures were made in the workroom. RAM had an middling (complete from 3 models) of 4.1% asphalt content in the trial parts and laboratory, and the final mixtures were made with virgin 35/50 (mm/10) penetration asphalt cement.

[27] Investigated the accumulated dissolute toughness and exhaustion of rubberized bitumen holding WMA preservative afterward a long-standing elderly retro using the standard fatigue analysis method. 55 old keel were tested at 5 and 20 °C using one rubber form, two combined sources, and two WMA flavors. Fatigue beams were conditioned for five days at 85°C in a forced-draft oven until being cooled to room temperature and exposed to a series of 10 Hz sinusoidal loadings. The fatigue life of old rubber mixtures is usually higher than that of other mixtures, with or without WMA additive, and the old mixture has a longer fatigue life at 20 °C than at 5 °C.

[28] The study used three levels of addition to the recycled mixture and was subjected to indirect tensile stress testing. Then the samples tolerance levels were modified to produce failure life ranging from 1000 to 100000 cycles. Prior to fatigue research, samples manufactured in the laboratory were artificially aged (by training at 85 °C for 120 hours). The fatigue resistance of recycled mixtures tends to be on par with or better than RAP-free control mixtures. With regeneration ratios) In the mixture, fatigue efficiency tends to improve.

[29] Analyze the fatigue properties of RAP-containing HMA mixes. HMA mixes covering 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30%. RAP were made with one form of aggregate (limestone) and one type of binder (PG 64-22). The flexural beam fatigue test was a strain-controlled test used to decide how long sunbeam cases sliced from workroom compressed tasters would last. That were bent repeatedly before failure sunbeam samples were compressed to 7% air voids using a vibratory compactor and measured at 25°C. According to the load cycle performance, mixes by advanced proportions of RAP had a longer fatigue life.

[30] Carried out an experiment to describe the motorized activity of bituminous mixtures with high levels of recycled asphalt pavement (RAP). We measured two semi-dense mixtures with 40% and 60% RAP and overall aggregate sizes of 12 and 20 mm. We measured two semi-dense mixes with 40% and 60% RAP and overall aggregate sizes of 12 and 20 mm. The resulted were similar in behavior particularly for the 60% RAP mix.

[31] It is concluded that the greater the RAP content, the material has higher rigidity and thus the pavement stress duration is reduced.

[32] Determined that the upper proportions of RAP shaped a faster exhaustion poverty.

[33] Proved that the tasting looked into the influence of RAP on the modulus of asphalt mixes and found that a lower RAP content had no influence on the volumetric properties or efficiency of the mix.

[34] RAP has been studied on many types of bonds, counting multigrade bitumen, and a variability of outcomes are discovered. For multigrade bitumen including RAP, no significant effect on mixture stress performance was detected.

[35] The inclusion of 10% and 30% RAP in multigrade bitumen mixes decreased the fatigue output of the tasters through sixty and sixty seven percent, correspondingly, under controlled strain monitoring.

[36] Superpave mixtures had been used, the RAP and rubber crumb are commonly used. adapted binders was investigated. As a control blend, the project used a standard Superpave HMA mixture made entirely of virgin binder and aggregate. By weight, the improved asphalt binder contained 10% crumb rubber compared to the virgin binder. RAP was present in the unmodified binder mixes in percentages 0%, 15%, and 30%. The RAP percentages in the crumb rubber adjusted mixes were the same. The results showed that each mix met or exceeded the ITS minimum requirements. With increasing RAP percentages, the dry and wet ITS increased.
The quality for mixes of asphalt was considered with fractionated (RAP) materials. The percentages of RAP mixtures used in the sample were 15%, 35 percent, and 50%. The TSR test results for asphalt mixture moisture susceptibility displayed that RAP mixes of 35 percent RAP and 50 percent RAP have TSR values larger than 0.80. The TSR value of the control mixture is 0.72. The outcomes displayed that the dry RAP Mixture strength increased by 60% on run-of-the-mill as likened to the control mixture's dry strength. The findings also reported a 20% improvement in dry mixture strength relative to wet mixture strength on average.

In the study’s experimental design, three sizes of rubber and two forms of rubber (ambient or coolant) were used in a 25% RAP mixture. In the study’s experimental design, three sizes of rubber and two forms of rubber (ambient or coolant) were used in a 25% RAP mixture. With the exception of the virgin mixture, all of the mixtures had TSR values greater than 85%, according to the data. The use of RAP in modified mixtures has a number of benefits, including lowering virgin asphalt binder, the ITS and TSR values, and thus raising cracks, which increases the moisture resistance of HMA mixtures.

Based on the wheel-tracking test data, RAP mixes had very alike estrus deepness values at the end of the test and Wheel Tracking Slopes (WTS) estimated between 5,000 and 10,000 revs. Furthermore, these blends had lower WTS values than the higher modulus mixture without RAP, suggesting that the RAP offered greater coagulation resistance.

Plastic recycling was used as a polymer to change bitumen and as an artificial material in this analysis, with the researcher noting that the development of recycled plastic asphalt for use in construction was evaluated as a standard surface layer for a road in Victoria. The findings suggested that complete replacement of asphalt mixtures may be beneficial to the climate.

The researcher depending on Biological additives for use in concrete pavements have clear advantages, such as improving mechanical properties and treating cracks in concrete and other building materials separately, environmental friendliness, and the ability to lower pavement life cycle costs. However, due to a lack of understanding of its long-term effects and efficiency, as well as the comparatively higher investment needed to incorporate it in pavements, this technology is not currently in the spotlight. Self-healing concrete pavements due to the technology's use of bio-grafting of local soil and a mixture of nutrients and bacteria to form the bio-reinforcement.

Despite the fact that many researchers believe that high RAP contents are theoretically possible, according to a paper titled “Viability of Using High RAP Contents in HMA” [42] 40 percent RAP is the highest feasible contented for existing hot asphalt recycling tools. To minimize uncertainty, upper RAP contented will necessitate the use of indirect heat techniques or warm asphalt technology, as well as further RAP processing and testing. This limits the potential growth of high RAP content because it would initially raise project costs to cover the costs of implementing advanced technologies. The existing stockpiles of RAP, in addition to the monetary disadvantages of introducing high RAP contents. RAP is becoming more common in the pavement industry as the market for recycled materials and environmentally conscious designs grows. Thus, there are a number of studies on RAP. The researcher abstracted a number of studies as a figures 8,9 as below:
5 Conclusion

The following may summarize this literature based on the earlier existing practice in the reusing playing field:

- Despite the fact that reclaimed asphalt pavement binder has oxidized, it still has considerable value and can be recycled.
- In comparison to virgin blends, studies have shown that recycled mixtures perform well in measures of fatigue resistance, Marshall properties, moisture spoilage resistance, and cracking resistance.
- Crumb rubber, powder sulphur and Plastic recycling may be added to recycled mixtures.
- The amount of recycling agent required to restore an old binder's streamlining properties is around 1% of the total weight of the mixture.
- Only minimal research has been done on the fatigue efficiency of RAP-based pavements. There hasn’t been any definitive modeling done yet to demonstrate how RAP affects the design life of multigrade bitumen asphalt or how temperature affects the outcome.
Compliance with ethical standards

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