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### Full Length Research Paper

## Assessing Shear and Compressive Strength of Reclaimed Asphalt Concrete

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Abstract. The prime objectives for this study are evaluating the performance of recycled asphalt concrete, investigating the effect of recycling agent type and amount on mixture performance, and studying the effect of inclusion of more reclaimed materials content into recycled mixtures. For this purpose, reclaimed materials milled from field, filler, virgin asphalt cement, and four types of recycling agents (used oil, oil + crumb rubber, soft grade asphalt cement, and asphalt cement + sulfur powder), have been implemented and were used to prepare recycled mixtures with nominal maximum size of 12.5 mm. The recycling agent that showed the best mixture performance was used to prepare recycled mixtures with different reclaimed materials contents. Mixtures were subjected to Double Punch shear, Compressive Strength, and index of retained strength Test. It was found that using soft grade asphalt cement as a recycling agent revealed better performance than other types of recycling agents. For recycled mixtures with mixing ratio of (50/50) virgin/reclaimed materials, the optimum recycling agent contents were (0.56%, 1%, 1.3%, and 1.5%) by weight of mixture for (used oil, oil + crumb rubber, soft grade asphalt cement, and asphalt cement + Sulfur) recycling agent respectively. Recycled Mixtures with reclaimed materials content, up to 70 %, and soft asphalt recycling agent, showed good performance. The percentages of variation for mixtures properties compared to mixtures with 50 % reclaimed materials were +3.6 %, +4.8 % for double punch shear, and compressive strength respectively, and the reduction in mixtures properties as compared to virgin mixture was in acceptable extent.

Keywords: Compressive strength; Double punch shear; Retained strength; Recycling agent; Reclaimed asphalt concrete

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This recycling process presents a sustainable solution by using the reclaimed materials milled from the pavement. Such materials could be mixed with virgin materials and recycling agents to produce recycled mixtures. The important benefits of recycling process are the economical savings, reduction of environmental impact, and conservation of natural resources. As the rehabilitation and construction process of highways expand, the costs of pavement materials increase, and there is shortage in the resources of good quality materials. Recycling process is one of the important solutions for this problem. The recycling of existing asphalt pavement materials produces new pavements with considerable savings in material, money, and energy. Aggregate and binder from old asphalt pavements are still valuable even though these pavements have reached the end of their service lives (Al-Qadi et al., 2007). Using Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) has become a common practice in many countries. Experience indicated that the recycling of asphalt pavements is very advantageous from different perspectives. Some of the advantages of utilizing RAP include conservation of asphalt and aggregate resources, conservation of energy and reduction in life-cycle cost, (Al-Rousan et al., 2008).

When the pavement mixture reaches its service life, milled materials still maintain considerable value. The milled materials can be reused in virgin hot asphalt mixture to reduce the amount of new material that needs to be used, (Al-Oadi et al., 2007). The reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) is a removed and processed pavement material containing old aggregate and asphalt binder, which is oxidized (aged) during service in the field. In a hot-mix recycling process, the RAP is combined with virgin (new) asphalt, virgin aggregate and, in some cases, recycling agent to produce a recycled asphalt mixture, (Doh et al., 2008). (Colbert and You, 2012) investigated the influence of fractionated RAP materials on asphalt mixture performance. (Miro et al., 2011) studied the behavior of high modulus bituminous mixes with low penetration grade bitumen and high RAP percentages, four mixtures with RAP percentages of 0%, 15%, 30% and 50%, were analyzed.

In Iraq, the approach of recycling has not yet been adopted, although there is strong need for rehabilitation and construction of pavement structures in all over the country at economical basis. There are few local studies on recycling process, (Sarsam, 2007). The durability of recycled asphalt concrete was investigated by (Sarsam and AL-Zubaidi, 2014); they concluded that the recycled mixture had good resistance to deformation under load repetition than that of reference mixture at temperature (25°C and 40°C).

The objectives of this work is to explore the effect of type and amount of recycling agents on reclaimed asphalt mixtures shear, stripping and compressive properties, and to provide some valuable data on the proper materials to be used, and the performance of recycled mixtures. The effect of inclusion of variable percentages of reclaimed materials after recycling into recycled mixtures was also investigated.

### 2. MATERIALS PROPERTIES

### 2.1. Asphalt Cement

Asphalt cement of penetration grade (40-50) was used as virgin binder; it was brought from Al-Dura refinery. Tests conducted on asphalt cement confirmed that its properties complied with the specifications of State Commission of Roads and Bridges (SCRB, 2007). Table 1 presents the physical properties of asphalt cement.

Table1 Physical Properties of Asphalt Cement						
Property	<b>Test Conditions</b>	ASTM Designation No.	Value	SCRB Specification		
Penetration	25°c, 100gm, 5sec	D5-06	42	40-50		
Softening Point	(ring & ball)	D36-95	53 °c	-		
Ductility (cm)	25°c, 5cm/min	D113-99	125	+100		
Specific Gravity	25°c	D70-97	1.04	-		
Flash Point	Cleveland open cup D92-05 280 °c		>232			
	After thin film oven test properties D1754-97					
<b>Retained Penetration of Residue</b>	25°c, 100gm, 5sec	D5-06	73 %	>55		
Ductility of Residue	25°c, 5cm/min D113-99		67 cm	>25		
Loss on Weight	163°c, 50g,5 hrs.		0.2 %	-		

### **2.2. Coarse and Fine Aggregate**

Crushed coarse aggregate (retained on sieve No.4), and crushed sand (particle size passing sieve no.4 and retained on sieve No.200), were brought from AL-

Nibai quarry. It consists of hard, tough grains, free from loam and other deleterious substances. Coarse and fine aggregate were tested and the physical properties are listed in table 2.

Table 2:	Physical	Properties	of Coarse	and Fine	Aggregate
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	Coarse Aggregate		Fine Aggregate	
Property	Value	ASTM Designation No.	Value	ASTM Designation No.
Bulk specific gravity	2.564	C127-04	2.599	C128-04
Apparent specific gravity	2.597	C127-04	2.826	C128-04
Water absorption %	0.502 %	C127-04	3.092 %	C128-04
Wear% (Los Angeles abrasion)	18.5%	C131-03		

### **2.3. Mineral Filler**

Mineral filler used in this study is limestone dust obtained from Erbil, the physical properties of the filler are listen in table 3.

<b>Table 3:</b> Physical Properties of Mineral Fille	Table 3:	Physical	Properties	of Mineral	Filler
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Property	Value
Bulk Specific Gravity	2.87
% Passing Sieve No.200	99

### 2.4. Selection of Aggregate Gradation

The Selected gradation in this study followed the (SCRB, 2007) binder course specification, with 12.5 mm nominal maximum size of aggregates. Fig. 1 shows selected aggregate gradation.

### 2.5. Reclaimed Materials

The Reclaimed asphalt concrete was obtained from milled pavement of Al-Aadhamiya cornice arterial, at Baghdad as shown in fig.2. This roadway was constructed in 1988. It was heavily deteriorated by various cracks, potholes, and ruts existing on the surface, the milling depth of the project were 5 cm. Reclaimed asphalt mixture obtained was assured to be free from deleterious substances and loam that gathered on the top surface. The reclaimed mixture was subjected to Marshal Property's determination,

extraction test according to ASTM D1856 procedure to obtain binder & filler content, gradation and



Fig. 1 Selected aggregates gradation

Table 4 presents the properties of reclaimed material after extraction test. The physical properties of the reclaimed asphalt concrete are illustrated in table 5. Gradation of aggregate obtained from reclaimed mixture was determined; ten samples were selected randomly from the milled material stack. It properties of aggregate.



Fig. 2 Location map of reclaimed asphalt concrete

was subjected to extraction test to isolate binder from aggregate, and then aggregate samples were sieved for determination of gradation. The differences between samples were in a minor extent, and the average gradation of the ten samples obtained to be the old aggregate gradation is shown in table 6.

Material	Property Value			
Asphalt binder	Binder content %	2.1%		
	Bulk specific gravity	2.553		
Coarse aggregate	Water absorption %	1.2%		
	Wear% (Los Angeles abrasion	) 22%		
Fine aggregate	Bulk specific gravity	2.590		
	Water absorption %	4.4%		
Mineral filler	Percent passing sieve no.200	98%		
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Table 5	Specific gravity	2.820		
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Table 5	Specific gravity : Physical properties of reclain Marshall Stability Marshall flow	2.820 ned Materials 3.6 kN 1.6 mm		
Table 5 Aged Mixture Properties (Reclaimed)	Specific gravity : Physical properties of reclain Marshall Stability Marshall flow Air voids	2.820 ned Materials 3.6 kN 1.6 mm 7.4%		
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Table 5 Aged Mixture Properties (Reclaimed) Table 6: Gradatic	Specific gravity : Physical properties of reclain Marshall Stability Marshall flow Air voids Bulk density on of old Aggregate obtained f	2.820 ned Materials 3.6 kN 1.6 mm 7.4% 2.192 gm/cm <sup>3</sup>		
Table 5 Aged Mixture Properties (Reclaimed) <u>Table 6: Gradatio</u> Sieve size (mn	Specific gravity : Physical properties of reclain Marshall Stability Marshall flow Air voids Bulk density on of old Aggregate obtained f n) 19 12.5 9.5	2.820 med Materials 3.6 kN 1.6 mm 7.4% 2.192 gm/cm <sup>3</sup> From reclaimed Mixture 4.75 2.36 0.3 0.075		

Table 4: Properties of Aged Materials after Extraction Test

#### 2.6. Recycling Agents

Four types of laboratory prepared recycling agents are implemented in this investigation. Their properties are as shown below.

#### 2.7. Used Oil

Used oil obtained from gasoline motor vehicle with a run period of 3200 (km) have been used in this study as one of the recycling agents.

# **2.8.** Used Oil Blended with Crumb Rubber and chlorine detergent

Crumb rubber was obtained from local market as a disposal of tires that grinded. It was blended with used oil and chlorine detergent in the following components percentages: (77% used oil + 22% crumb rubber + 1 % chlorine) as addressed by (Sarsam, 2007). The used oil was heated to 100°c and crumb rubber was added with stirring, then chlorine was added as a solvent to increase the homogeneity of blend and support the chemical reaction, which was figured by the swelling of the mixture and bubble formation. Table 7 shows its Particle size distribution.

Table 7: Particle Size Distribution of Cru	umb Rubber
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Sieve size	4.75	2.36	0.3	0.075
(mm) % passing by weight	100	94	22	0

#### 2.9. Soft Grade Asphalt Cement

Asphalt cement of penetration grade (100-110) from Al-Dura refinery was adopted in this study. Its physical properties are listed in table 8.

### 2.10. Asphalt Cement blended with Sulfur Powder

It was addressed by (Sarsam, 2007) that recycled mixes with sulfur exhibit significantly better engineering properties than conventional mixtures. Iraq produce sulfur, consequently it could be economically possible to use sulfur in recycling process. Same type of asphalt cement grade 40-50 that was used as a virgin binder was heated to nearly 140°c, and the sulfur powder was added with stirring for 30 minutes until homogenous blend was achieved. The component percentage of the bled was 20/80 sulfur/asphalt. Its physical properties are listed in table 9.

Table 8 Phys	sical Properties of Soft Asphal	t Cement Recycling Agent	
Property	Test Conditions	ASTM Designation No.	Value
Penetration	25°c, 100gm, 5sec	D5-06	104
Softening Point	(ring & ball)	D36-95	25 °c
Ductility	25°c, 5cm/min	D113-99	80 cm
Flash Point	Cleveland open cup	D92-05	250 °c
	After thin film oven test proper	rties D1754-97	
<b>Retained Penetration of Residue</b>	25°c, 100gm, 5sec	D5-06	66 %
<b>Ductility of Residue</b>	25°c, 5cm/min	D113-99	46 cm
Loss on Weight	163°c, 50g, 5 hrs.		0.35 %

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Table 8 Ph	ysical Propertie	s of Soft Asp	bhalt Cement	Recycling Agent

Table 9: Physical Properties of Asphalt Cement Blended with sulfur powder

Property	Test Conditions	ASTM Designation No.	Value
Penetration	25°c, 100gm, 5sec	D5-06	66
Softening Point	(ring & ball)	D36-95	42 °c
Ductility	25°c, 5cm/min	D113-99	110 cm
Flash Point	Cleveland open cup	D92-05	270 °c
Aft	er thin film oven test prope	rties D1754-97	
<b>Retained Penetration of Residue</b>	25°c, 100gm, 5sec	D5-06	80 %
Ductility of Residue	25°c, 5cm/min	D113-99	75 cm
Loss on Weight	163°c, 50g,5 hrs.		0.15 %

#### **3. PREPARATION OF ASPHALT CONCRETE SPECIMENS**

### 3.1. Preparation of Virgin Mixture

The combined aggregate was heated to a temperature of (160°C) before mixing with asphalt cement. The virgin asphalt cement was heated to a temperature of (140°C) to produce a kinematic viscosity of (170±20) centistokes. Then, asphalt cement was added to the heated aggregate to achieve the desired amount, and mixed thoroughly until all aggregate particles are thoroughly coated with asphalt cement.

### **3.2. Preparation of Recycled Mixture**

RAP was heated to approximately 150°C and the recycling agent was added and mixed thoroughly. On the other hand, Virgin Coarse and fine aggregate wee combined with mineral filler to meet the specified gradation, and then heated to 160°C. Virgin binder was heated to 140°C separately then added at the desired amount, and mixed thoroughly until all aggregate particles were coated with asphalt cement. The mixing ratio of virgin/old material was determined, the recycled RAP mixture was mixed with the virgin asphalt concrete prepared using Four mixing ratios of (50/50, 40/60, 30/70, 20/80) virgin/reclaimed material. Four types of recycling agents were implemented to recycle reclaimed mixture as mentioned before.

### 3.3. Compaction of Asphalt Concrete Marshal Specimens for shear test

Cylindrical specimens of 102 mm in diameter and 63.5 mm in height were prepared for the double punch shear test. Marshall Mold, spatula, and compaction

hammer were heated on a hot plate to a temperature between (140-150°C). The temperature of mixture immediately prior to compaction temperature was (145-150°C). The mold assembly was placed on the compaction pedestal and 75 blows on the top and the bottom of specimen were applied with specified compaction hammer. Fig.3 show part of the prepared specimens for double punch shears determination.

# **3.4.** Compaction of Asphalt Concrete Specimens for Compressive Strength test

Cylindrical specimens of 101.6 mm in diameter and 101.6 mm in height were compacted using gyratory



Fig. 3: Part of (double punch shear test) specimens

### 4. TESTING PROGRAM

The testing program include subjecting virgin specimens, recycled specimens of the four types of recycling agents, and virgin mixture with different percentages of reclaimed materials content of (50%,60%, 70%, 80%) to shear and compressive strength test, and determination of stripping behavior through index of retained strength IRS test.

### 4.1. Double Punch shear Test

This test procedure was developed and used to measure the stripping of the binder from the aggregates; this test was reported by many studies (Jimenez, 1974; Solaimanian, 2004; Sarsam, 2006). Marshall Specimen was used for this test; it was conditioned by placing in water bath at 60°C for 30 min. The test was performed by centrally loading the cylindrical specimen, using two cylindrical steel

compactor, because this method of compaction simulates field compaction in a progressive way. The mold of gyratory compactor was heated to 140°C. The asphalt mixture was placed in the preheated mold at temperature of (140-150°C). By introducing the necessary information about specimen height, mass, and theoretical density for the device software, the compaction process started. When specimen reaches the specified marshal specimens density, compaction process stop automatically and the mold was discharged from the device. Fig.4 shows part of gyratory compacted specimens for compressive strength determination, while Fig.5 shows the gyratory compactor.



Fig. 4: Part of (compressive strength) specimens

punches placed on the top and bottom surface of the sample. The specimen was centered between the two punches (2.54 cm in diameter), perfectly aligned one over the other, and then loaded at a rate of 2.54 cm/minute until failure. The reading of dial gage at the maximum load resistance was recorded. Figure 6 illustrates the double punch test apparatus.

### **4.2.** Compressive strength test

This test was conducted to determine the suitability of these mixtures in pavement under given loading and environmental conditions. The test followed the procedure of (ASTM D1074-02). Compressive specimens which were prepared and compacted, was stored in air bath at 25°C for 4 hours, then, the test was performed by applying a compressive load at a constant rate of 5.08 mm/min to measure the maximum resistance to load at failure.



Fig. 5: Gyratory compactor of asphalt concrete



Fig. 6: Double punch shear test

#### 4.3. Index of Retained Strength Test

This method covers measurement of the loss of cohesion resulting from the action of water on compacted bituminous mixtures. The test followed the procedure of (ASTM D1075-07). A set of six specimens for each variable was prepared for this purpose. Three specimens were stored at air bath for 4 hours at 25°C, and then tested for compressive strength and the average value was recorded. The other three specimens were stored in a water bath at 60°C for 24 hours, then they were stored in another water bath at 25°C for 2 hours, and the compressive strength test was performed on these specimens, and also the average value was recorded. The index of retained strength was then determined as the percentage of difference between the specimens of each set.

#### **5. DISCUSSION OF TEST RESULTS**

# 5.1. Effect of Recycling Agent Type on Punching shear Strength

Results of double punch test confirmed the improvement of punching strength of recycled mixtures when compared to reclaimed (aged) asphalt concrete. Double punch test indicates the shear resistance behavior between binder and aggregate. The punching strength for virgin mix was higher than recycled mixtures. This may be related to the fact that recycling agent has a softening effect in the mixture, which reduces the viscosity. Recycled mix with (Soft asphalt cement) had the highest punching strength value comparing to the other recycled mixtures, and recycled mix with (Oil) revealed the lowest value. Punching strength values for all recycled mixtures were higher than aged mixture; this could be attributed to changing the stiff mode of the reclaimed mixture to more flexible mode by the addition of recycling agent. Such results agrees well with (Sarsam, 2007) findings. Fig. 7 presents double punch test results for virgin, recycled, and aged mixtures.



Fig. 7: Variation of punching shear with recycling agent

Fig. 8: Variation of compressive strength with recycling agent

# 5.2. Effect of Recycling Agent Type on Compressive Strength

Compressive strength test results revealed a pronounced improvement for recycled mixtures when compared to aged mixes. Virgin mixture had higher compressive strength than recycled mixtures, but the compressive strength for recycled mixture with (Soft Ac) was slightly lower than that of virgin mix as illustrated in Fig.8. The inclusion of crumb rubber or sulfur in recycling agent increased the compressive strength of the mixes as compared to reclaimed mixes.



Fig. 9: Variation of index of retained strength with recycling agent

# **5.4.** Effect of the Inclusion of More Old Materials on Punching Strength

Double punch test results confirmed that recycled mixtures with high percentages of old materials performed well. The punching strength value for recycled mix with 70% old materials was the highest, comparing to the corresponding mixtures with 50% and 60%, reduction in test value was noticed for mixture with 80% old materials. These results indicate that recycled mixtures with old materials up to 70% could perform well in term of punching strength. Fig.10 illustrates the punching strength results.

# 5.5. Effect of the Inclusion of More Old Materials on Compressive Strength

Compressive strength results showed that with the increase of old materials content up to 70% into recycled mixtures, the compressive strength values for dry specimens increased. For mixture of 80 % old materials content, the value of compressive strength decreased. That's could be explained by the action of

# **5.3.** Effect of Recycling Agent Type on Index of Retained Strength

Index of Retained Strength (I.R.S) is an indication for mixture resistance to water damage. Fig.9 shows a good performance for recycled mixtures when compared to aged or virgin mixes. Mixtures with Soft asphalt or asphalt with Sulfur exceeded the I.R.S value for virgin mixture, which indicates that these mixtures were less susceptible to moisture damage as compared to virgin mix. This behavior may be explained by the better coating of aggregates by recycled binder. All of (I.R.S) values for recycled mixtures exceeded 70 %, and achieved the criteria of (SCRB 2007) for index of retained strength.



**Fig. 10:** Variation of punching shear with mixing ratio

aged materials which result into more stiff and hard mixture, when the old materials content increased extensively, the bonding between mixture particles was affected which may result into less resistance to compressive force. This may indicate the reduction in the asphalt concrete quality from load sustaining point of view. Such material may be recommended for lower pavement layers and not for tire sustaining layer. Such finding was in agreement with (Al-Rousan et al, 2008; Al-Qadi et al, 2007). Fig.11 illustrates the results of compressive strength test.

# **5.6. Effect of the Inclusion of More Old Materials on Index of Retained Strength**

Index of retained strength values decreased as the content of old materials into recycled mixtures increased, that confirms the reduction in water resistance of mixtures with higher old materials content, however all recycled mixtures except mixture with 80% old materials achieved the criteria of (SCRB 2007). Fig.12 illustrates the result values of index of retained strength.

Sarsam and AL-Janabi Assessing Shear and Compressive Strength of Reclaimed Asphalt Concrete



### 5.7. Total impact of Recycling on Mixtures Performance

The total positive impact of recycling was explored by comparing tests results of recycled mixtures for the different types of recycling agents, with results of reclaimed (aged) mixture as it appears in table 10. The percent of improvement in the pavement quality, and these performance aspects was concerned to establish the full picture that clarifies the advantages of each recycling agent in recycling process. The selection of



the desirable recycling agent to be adopted for the next step will be based on the economic justification of these comparable results. On the other hand, table 11 demonstrates the comparative performance and differences gained by using different types of recycling agents as compared to virgin mixture. The recycled asphalt concrete was still have lower quality when compared to virgin mix from the load sustaining abilities, this is in agreement with (Colbert and You, 2012; Sarsam, 2007).

Table 10: Improvement in physical properties of recycled inixture as compared to aged inixture						
Recycling agent	Bulk density	Double punch shear	Compressive strength	Index of retained strength		
Soft asphalt	+5.1%	+375%	+136%	+54		
Soft asphalt + sulfur	+4.4%	+275%	+122%	+52		
Soft asphalt + used oil	+6.4%	+150%	+72%	+38		
Soft asphalt + used oil + rubber	+3.1%	+250%	+95%	+41		

Table 10: Improvement in ph	nysical pro	perties of recycled	mixture as comp	pared to aged mixture
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Table 11: Changes in physical properties of recycled mixture as compared to virgin mixture							
Recycling agent	Bulk density	Double punch shear	Compressive strength	Index of retained strength			
Soft asphalt	-2.3%	-13.7%	-1.2%	+3.2			
Soft asphalt + sulfur	-2.9%	-32%	-7.1%	+1.9			
Soft asphalt + used oil	-1.27%	-54.6%	-28%	- 7.4			
Soft asphalt + used oil + rubber	-4.23%	-36.4%	-18.2%	- 5.8			

Table 12 shows the impact of using more reclaimed asphalt concrete in the recycling process, the physical properties of the mixture of 50/50 reclaimed to virgin material are illustrated in the table

indicating an acceptable quality. The percent variation in the quality when the mixing ratio changes, is also indicated in the table.

Table 12: Variation in mixture properties according to virgin/old mixture rat	tio
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Mixing ratio of material (virgin/old)	(50/50) test results	Percent variation in properties				
		(40/60)	(30/70)	(20/80)		
Optimum recycling agent content (%)	1.3%	-15.3%	-27.2%	-67.5%		
Marshal stability (KN)	10.29	-11.5%	+3.3%	-21.2%		
Marshal flow (mm)	3.14	+4.3%	-39%	-39.5%		
Bulk density (gm/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2.305	-0.08%	-1.1%	-1.0%		
Double punch shear strength (KPa)	194	-4.1%	+8%	-16.9%		
Compressive strength (KPa)	4227	+1.9%	+2.7%	-10%		
Index of retained strength (%)	80.5%	- 7.4%	- 3.8%	-5.5%		

### 6. CONCLUSION

1- Double punch test confirmed the improvement of punching strength of recycled mixtures when compared to reclaimed (aged) asphalt concrete, while the punching strength for virgin mix was higher than recycled mixtures. Recycled mix with Soft asphalt cement had the highest punching shear strength when compared to the other recycling agents.

2- The inclusion of crumb rubber or sulfur in recycling agent increased the compressive strength of the mixes as compared to reclaimed mixes.

3- Mixtures with Soft asphalt or asphalt with Sulfur were less susceptible to moisture damage by an average value of 53% as compared to reclaimed mix and exceeded the I.R.S requirement of 70% value for virgin mixture.

4- Recycled mixtures with old materials from 50% to 70 % could perform well in term of punching strength, and compressive strength. The index of retained strength values decreased as the percentage of old materials into recycled mixtures increased.

5- The recycled asphalt concrete have lower quality when compared to virgin mix from the load sustaining abilities point of view, and may be recommended for lower pavement layers which are not tire sustaining layer.

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#### Sarsam and AL-Janabi Assessing Shear and Compressive Strength of Reclaimed Asphalt Concrete



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