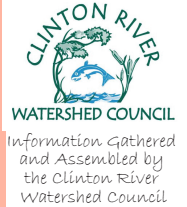


COAL TAR SEALANT

Harmful to the Environment and Human Health



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WHAT IS COAL TAR SEALANT?

Coal Tar sealant is a substance that is applied to asphalt to seal the surface and prevent damage from everyday wear and tear.



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WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF USING COAL TAR SEALANT?

Coal Tar Sealant contains Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

PAHs are known to be human carcinogens. These harmful compounds have been found in streams across the state of Michigan, after stormwater runoff polluted with these compounds enters the waterways and is mixed with the freshwater.

Recent studies have shown increased cancer risk of 38 times the normal level in people living next to coal tar sealant.

Coal tar sealant is also a known toxin to some species of fish and macroinvertebrates. Some species of fish exposed to coal tar sealant were found with developmental disabilities.



Normal *F. heteroclitus* heart



F. heteroclitus heart after exposure to PAH mixture

Mud Minnow with an under-developed heart after exposure to PAHs.

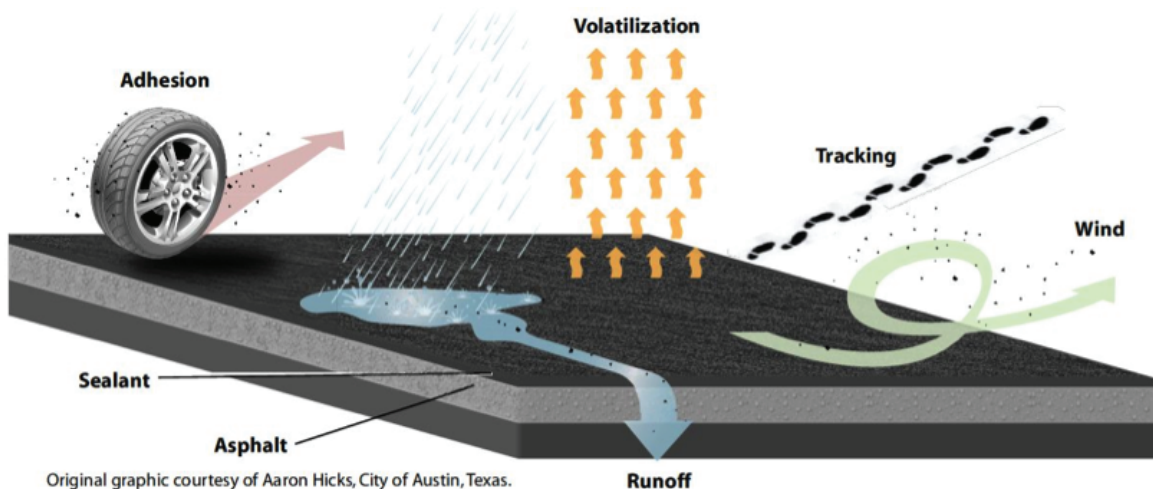


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HOW DOES COAL TAR SEALANT CONTAINING PAHS GET INTO THE ENVIRONMENT?

Coal tar sealant sediments and particles can be spread in many ways. Coal Tar enters local freshwater ecosystems through stormwater runoff entering our storm-drains. In warm weather, toxic PAH particles are released from the sealant into the air we breathe.

Particles can also be blown into the air by the wind, tracked indoors on the bottoms of shoes, and also stick to the bottoms of tires on cars and carried as we drive.



U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

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WHAT YOU CAN DO



- 1 Do not use coal Tar Sealant whenever possible
- 2 Seek alternatives such as Asphalt based materials which contain lower concentrations of PAHs.
- 3 Contact the Clinton River Watershed Council for recommendations on alternatives to Coal Tar Sealant. ----- contact@crwc.org // 248-601-0606
- 4 Be proactive when talking about Coal Tar as an environmental and human health issue. The banning of Coal Tar is gaining traction around the State of Michigan. Ann Arbor and many other municipalities have already banned the use of Coal Tar sealant.