



## Cancer and Stormwater Runoff



Coal tar-based sealant residue can find its way into stormwater runoff as sealcoat deteriorates from asphalt parking lots and driveways. Coal-tar based sealant has been identified as a significant source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the environment and is a known carcinogen according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. PAH contaminated runoff into urban waterways can enter the food chain which is a risk to the ecology and human health. Alternative sealcoat products can provide similar performance and cost, without coal tar's carcinogenic properties. Listed below are recommendations for residents to help reduce this risk:

- Purchase coal tar-free or asphalt-based sealant offered in many home improvement stores.
- Only apply sealant when necessary and follow manufacturer's directions.
- Apply when the temperature is at least 60°F, with no rain forecasted for at least the next 48 hours.
- Consider alternative paving materials such as concrete for new and re-development.
- Dispose of old or unwanted sealant properly at household hazardous waste collection events.

Eliminating the use of coal tar-based asphalt sealcoats can reduce the health and environmental risk from these products. More information can be found at:

USEPA's coal tar-based asphalt sealant and stormwater webpage  
[http://cfpub2.epa.gov/npdes/courseinfo.cfm?program\\_id=0&outreach\\_id=645&schedule\\_id=1169](http://cfpub2.epa.gov/npdes/courseinfo.cfm?program_id=0&outreach_id=645&schedule_id=1169)

Coal Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), and Environmental Health <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3010/pdf/fs2011-3010.pdf>