

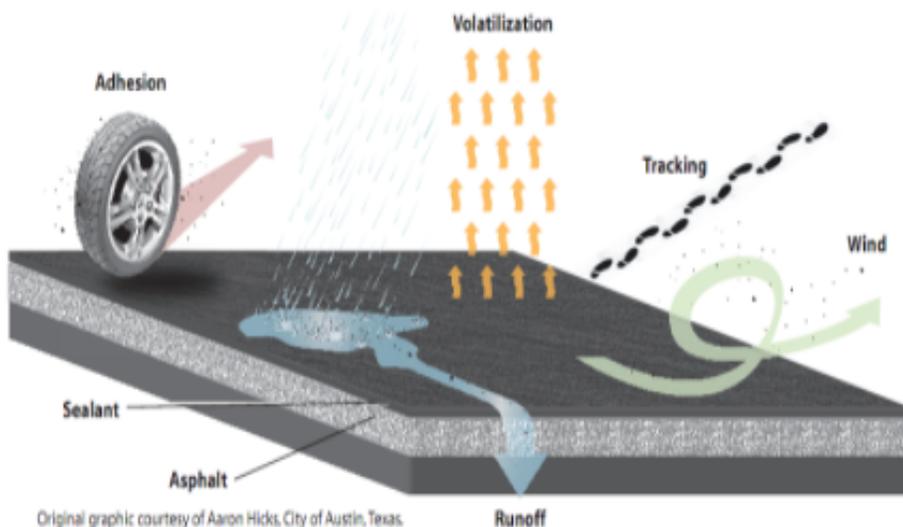
COAL TAR DRIVEWAY SEALANT

Village of Elm Grove

The use of coal tar sealants is illegal in Elm Grove under Chapter 120 of the Village Code of Ordinances.

Issues with Coal Tar Sealant

- Coal tar sealant contains Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) that are harmful.
- PAHs are a carcinogen that can also cause developmental problems in children.
- The key problem with coal tar-based sealcoat is that it doesn't stay put. After it dries, it flakes off as a dust and spreads everywhere.
- The U.S. Geological Survey has shown that sealcoat dust washes into stormwater, is blown around by the wind and sticks to tires. It also sticks to people's shoes and they can track the PAH-laden dust into their homes and offices.
- PAHs can also vaporize — or volatilize — into the air. And homes in close vicinity to treated pavement have been found to have dust with PAH concentrations 25 times higher than normal.



How does sealant get from driveways and parking lots into streams, lakes homes and the air?

ALTERNATIVE CHOICES TO COAL TAR DRIVEWAY SEALANT

- Asphalt-based sealants are much more environmentally friendly than coal tar-based sealants. The levels of PAH in asphalt products are up to 1,000 times lower.
- Other alternatives with minimal levels of PAH include acrylic sealants.
- If you're sealcoating your own driveway, only choose products that have the "coal tar free" label.
- If you're hiring a contractor, ask them for the MSDS, or material data safety sheet, for the product they intend to use. You want to avoid any product with the code for "coal tar" or "pitch," which is 65996-93-2.

Call the Village Hall at 262-782-6700

if you suspect a contractor is using coal tar based sealants.