

Did You Know?

If you decide to sealcoat your asphalt driveway this year, there are a few things you should know. Sealcoating makes old asphalt look new and protects its surface, but there are serious environmental concerns with its use depending on the product you use. Sealcoat comes in two basic varieties: coal tar-based and asphalt-based. The coal tar variety is more resilient, but it contains much higher levels of a class of chemicals called PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) that harm fish, and with prolonged exposure, pose a risk of cancer in humans.

Make the Right Choice

The best choice may be to not sealcoat your driveway at all. But if you do choose to sealcoat, study labels carefully to be sure to find a product that meets the provision of the Ordinance. If product labels are not sufficient, conduct additional research to know that the product you plan to use does not contain unacceptable levels of PAH's. Lower concentrations of PAH's in waterways will prevent costly maintenance for your city and keep waterways safe for fish and other aquatic organisms.

**You can tell if a product contains coal tar by looking at the materials list. Words like "coal tar," "refined coal tar," "refined coal-tar pitch" or similar terms should appear on the product container.

*****The City of Traverse City adopted a Ban of Coal Tar Sealant Products which bans the use and sale of coal tar sealant products and other high PAH products with an effective date of February 13, 2020.***

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?



- For a list of registered commercial pavement sealers who have confirmed their products are compliant with the City's ordinance, please visit: <https://www.traversecitymi.gov/government/city-departments/engineering/coal-tar-prohibition.html>
- To report suspected use of Coal Tar products, please email tnichols@traversecitymi.gov
- For any other questions, please contact Teresa Nichols at tnichols@traversecitymi.gov or 231-922-4456.
- To view the ordinance, please visit: <https://library.municode.com/mi/traverse-city/ordinances/code-of-ordina>

The City of Traverse City worked in partnership with The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay to develop the Coal Tar Ordinance. More information about risks associated with using coal tar products can be found at www.gtbbay.org.

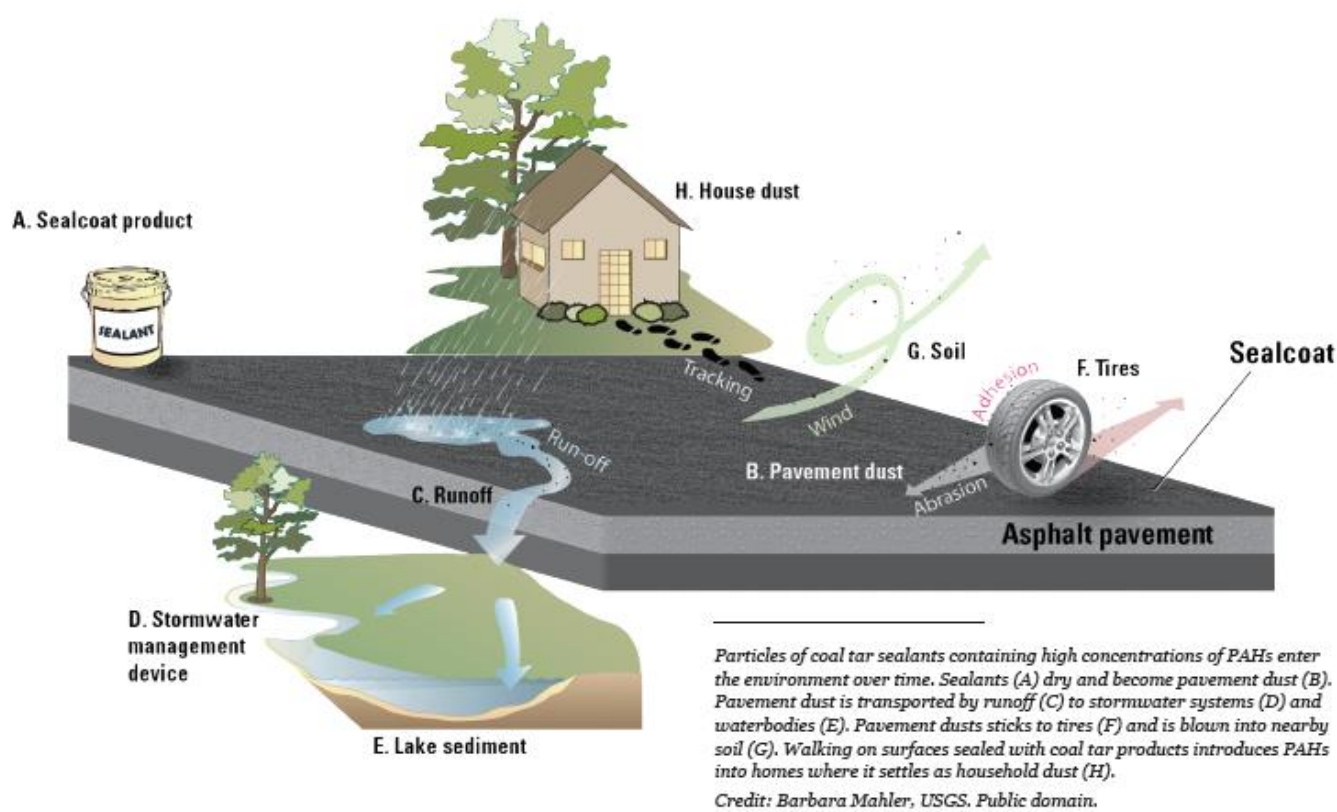


Thinking
about
SEALCOATING
your
DRIVEWAY?

Get the
FACTS!



www.traversecitymi.gov/coaltar



PENALTY

Any person or business who violates Ordinance Amendment 1116 is responsible for a civil infraction and subject to a fine of \$1,000.00 for the first violation and \$7,500.00 for each violation thereafter.

SAFE ALTERNATIVES

- Liquid Road by Seal Master
- MasterSeal by Seal Master
- Biosealcoat by Aexcel Corp
- Guard Top
- Pitch Black by Dark Force Sealcoat (St. Johns, MI)
- SafeSeal of Michigan
- Matrix PM by Dewitt
- For more safe alternatives, please visit <https://coaltarfreeusa.com/p/>

EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

PAHs from coal tar sealants enter the environment through stormwater runoff, wind, volatilization, tire abrasion, and foot traffic. Stormwater washes PAHs and other toxins found in coal tar sealants into ponds, lakes, streams, and wetlands where it sticks to soil particles. PAH runoff is linked to fish and invertebrate mortality and developmental issues.

PAHs may be inhaled during activities on or near a surface coated with a coal tar sealant. Walking on surfaces coated in coal tar sealants introduce PAHs into homes, where they settle as house dust. Young children who play on the floor and put objects into their mouths are further exposed to PAHs. The estimated cancer risk for people living adjacent to surfaces coated in coal tar sealants is on average 38 times higher than for people living adjacent to unsealed pavement.