

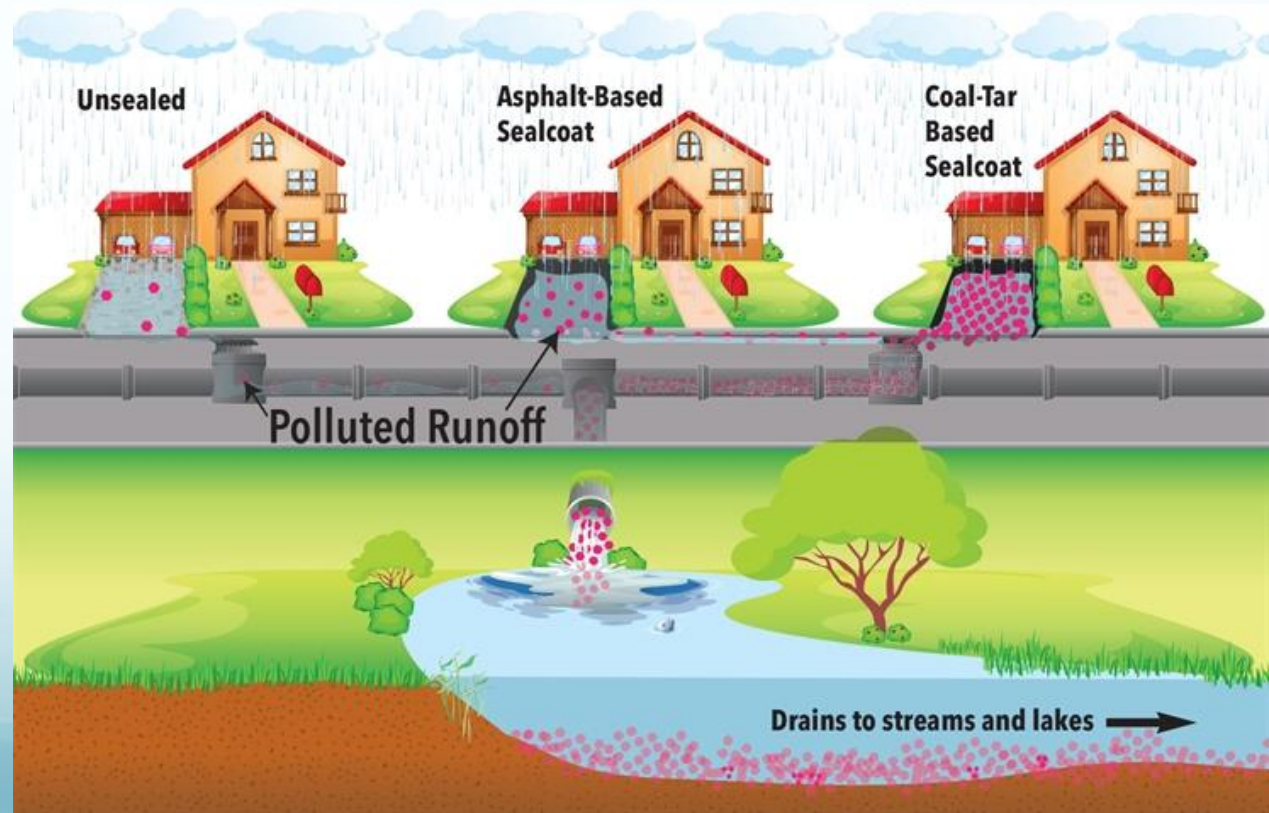


The Trouble with Toxic Pavement Sealants

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Why not to use Coal Tar or other High PAH pavement sealants

- High levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are found in coal tar and some other pavement sealants.
- PAH compounds are known **human** carcinogens. Early childhood exposure is linked to increased risk of developing lung, skin and bladder cancer.
- Sealants wear off and are tracked into buildings and washed off into detention ponds and our waterways.
- PAHs are toxic to **aquatic organisms**.
- PAH levels in the alternative asphalt-based sealants are 1000 times lower than in coal tar sealant.



Routes of Contamination of Buildings and Waterways from Coal Tar or other High PAH Pavement Sealants



- ◆ Living next to coal-tar-sealed pavement is estimated to increase cancer risk 38 times, much of the increased risk occurs during early childhood.
- ◆ A 2016 American Medical Association policy calls for legislation to ban the use of high PAH sealants or mandate the use of minimal PAH products.
- ◆ Coal tar-based sealants are the main source (42-94%) of toxic PAH pollution in Milwaukee's streams. Studies also show they are a significant stressor for aquatic life in DuPage County.
- ◆ January 2019— Seven Twin City suburbs sue coal tar producers for ignoring the environmental risk of their product, saying it could cost their communities billions to rid their stormwater ponds of this pollutant.
- ◆ Safer asphalt-based alternatives are readily available. Home Depot, Lowes, and Menards no longer sell coal tar sealant products.

Urban PAH Sources by the Numbers

Fresh asphalt	1.5
Weathered asphalt	3
Fresh motor oil	4
Brake particles	16
Road dust	24
Tire particles	86
Diesel engine exhaust	102
Gasoline engine exhaust	370
Used motor oil	440
Asphalt-based sealant	50
Coal-tar-based sealant	70,000

All concentrations in mg/kg.

See tx.usgs.gov/sealcoat.html for references.

State Legislation Giving Counties and Municipalities the Authority to Regulate the Sale and Use of Toxic Pavement Sealants

Sponsor:

Senator Laura Fine **SB1184**



Questions?

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