

Austin guide to... **PAVEMENT** *sealants*

Pavement sealants are surface finishes for parking lots, driveways and airport runways. They are used to protect asphalt pavements from weather and automotive fluids.



CITY BAN

The City of Austin has banned the use of coal tar-containing sealant products within the city limits and its planning jurisdiction. These sealants contain extremely high levels of PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) which pose a significant threat to our waterways. PAHs are a group of chemicals formed during the incomplete burning of coal, gasoline, wood, garbage or other organic substances such as tobacco and charbroiled meat. PAH particles from sealants find their way into local stream sediments during rain events. Sediment PAHs are known to harm aquatic life and degrade the health of Austin's creeks. Prior to the City ban, more than 600,000 gallons of coal tar-based sealants were applied annually in the Austin area. That single source appears to contribute the majority of the PAHs in the streams studied.

To report a violation,
or for additional
information:



ALTERNATIVES

- Use asphalt-based sealants that are a comparable alternative but are less toxic. Sealant products* that do not contain coal tar include:

RETAIL:

Henry PM2000 Premium Driveway Sealer/Filler
Henry Elastomeric Emulsion Crack Filler

COMMERCIAL/WHOLESALE:

Paveshield
Jennite Asphalt Emulsion Pavement Sealer
Gilsonite Asphalt Driveway Sealant

- Avoid or delay sealing parking lots when possible
- Construct parking lots with pervious pavement or concrete to avoid the need for sealants
- Consider whitetopping asphalt surfaces with a high strength concrete mixture

*There may be other sealant products available that do not contain coal tar so please read labels carefully. Listing of specific product trade names does not constitute an endorsement of its use.

How to Help?

- If purchasing a pavement sealant from a retailer or hiring a sealant applicator, please ask for a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) that can help you identify coal tar-containing products before you purchase them
- To report a potential violation of the ban, or to dispose of any unwanted product, call the City's 24 hour Pollution Hotline at 974-2550; liquid sealants can not be disposed of in the trash

To determine if you are in the City's planning jurisdiction,
please call 974-2797



Watershed Protection
Development Review