

NOTICE

**Coal tar pavement sealants are now prohibited
in Montgomery County.**

Potential fines of up to \$1,000 for using coal tar.

**Before using a paving sealant, check to make sure it does not contain:
coal tar, coal tar pitch or RT-12.**

Why:

Coal tar, a byproduct of coal processing, contains high levels of chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

FOR HUMAN HEALTH: Some PAHs are known carcinogens.

TO PROTECT WILDLIFE: Studies have shown that when coal tar-based sealants are applied on parking lots and driveways, PAHs can be released into nearby surface water. The chemicals can then accumulate in sediments to levels potentially harmful to aquatic wildlife.

TO SAVE MONEY: The presence of PAHs in sediments can potentially increase costs to the County government, businesses, and homeowner's associations charged with maintaining stormwater management facilities.



Alternatives:

Approved alternatives for coal tar sealants include:

- Asphalt-based Sealant
- Latex Sealant

Any material containing coal tar, refined coal tar, coal tar pitch, or RT-12 is prohibited.

For those hiring a contractor to perform the job, make sure you specify a product without coal tar. Ask to see the ingredient list of the product they are using. For do-it-yourselfers, local home improvement stores carry asphalt-based or latex sealants.

Use of a coal tar-based sealant can subject the applicator and the property owner to a fine of up to \$1,000, effective December 18, 2012.

For a list of more alternative sealants and information on the County's ban on coal tar pavement sealants, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/coaltarban.



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Photo by Justin McInnis/ U.S. Geological Survey