

# THE COAL TAR FACTS

## COAL TAR SEALANT FACT SHEET

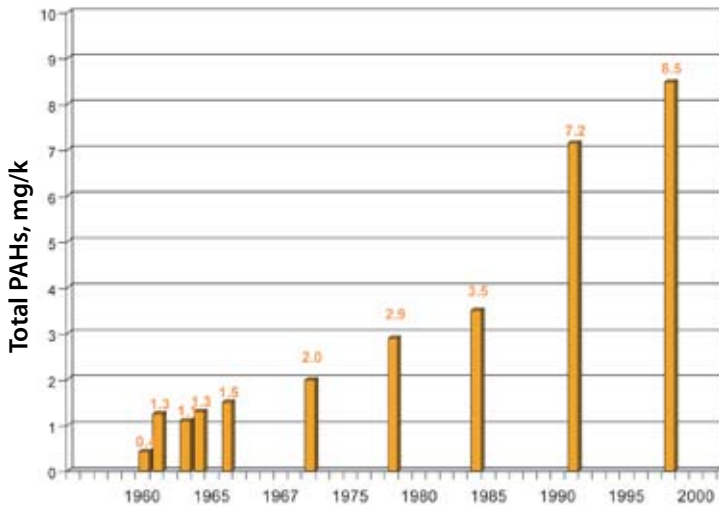
### What are coal tar sealants?

Coal tar sealants are surface finishes for parking lots, driveways and airports. They contain varying concentrations of coal tar depending on product and formulation.

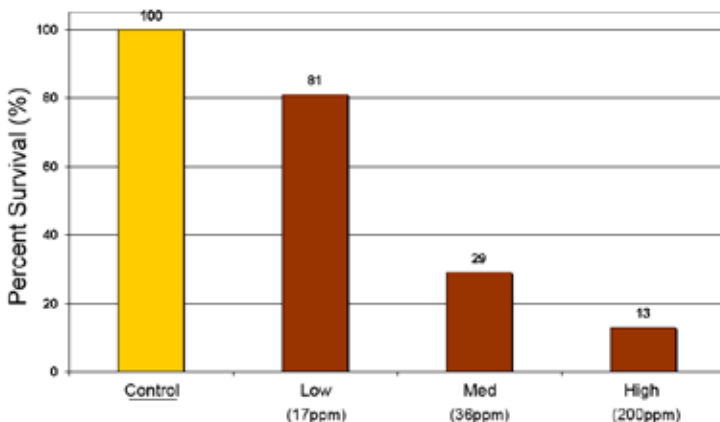
### What's the problem?

Coal tar sealants contain extremely high levels of PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons). 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. Because the sealants wear off the asphalt surface, recommendations call for reapplying them every two to three years. An estimated 660,000 gallons are applied annually in the Austin area. As the sealants wear off pavement surfaces, stormwater washes the particles into local waterways. PAHs are increasing in Town Lake sediments, where many of Austin's urban creeks drain to. City staff has documented that coal tar sealants are toxic to aquatic life at levels found in local waterways and are degrading the health of Austin's creeks.

### PAH Trends in Town Lake Sediment (Core) Samples 1960 - 2000



### Toxicity of Coal Tar Sealants in Sediments to Aquatic Organisms (*Hyalloella azteca*) at three treatment levels (low, med, high)



### What are the alternatives?

Asphalt based sealants are a comparable alternative offering a level of protection similar to coal tar sealants with lower levels of PAHs. The following list of products\* are available in the Austin area and contain no coal tar according to the product labels.

#### RETAIL STORES

**Henry** / [www.henry.com/Home.9.0](http://www.henry.com/Home.9.0)

- 200 Driveway Asphalt Sealer

#### COMMERCIAL/WHOLESALE:

**Henry** / [www.henry.com/Home.9.0](http://www.henry.com/Home.9.0)

- DuraSeal Asphalt Emulsion Sealer

**Neyra** / [www.neyra.com/products.htm](http://www.neyra.com/products.htm)

- Paveshield
- Jennite Asphalt Emulsion
- SunCool Reflective Pavement Coating (grey)

**Protective Coatings Technologies, Inc.** /

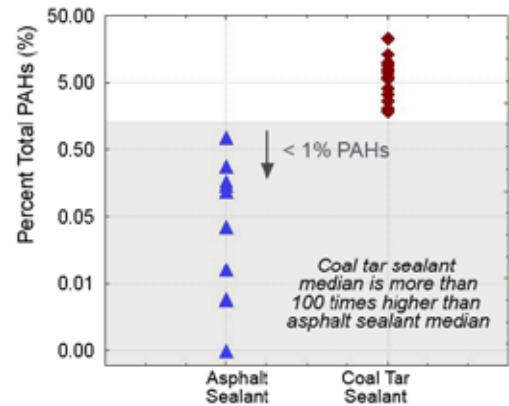
[www.pctworldwide.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx](http://www.pctworldwide.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx)

- COS-50 Sealer
- MOS-50 Sealer

**Seal Master** / [www.sealmaster.net](http://www.sealmaster.net)

- MasterSeal Pavement Sealer
- Polymer Modified Masterseal (PMM)

### PAH Concentration in Asphalt Based and Coal Tar Based Sealants (Note: Percentages are on a log scale)



### For updates see:

[www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/coal\\_tar\\_altproducts.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/coal_tar_altproducts.htm)

\*Sealant product availability is changing rapidly. There may be other sealant products available that do not contain coal tar so please read labels carefully. Listing of a specific product trade name does not constitute an endorsement of its use.



**Watershed Protection  
Development Review**

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