

SB 372 - Coal Tar Sealant Products – Prohibitions

Coal Tar Pavement Sealers Are Safe

- Sealers are an insignificant source of PAH in the environment. The foundational study that pointed the finger at sealants is in question.
- Bans on coal tar sealant have had no impact on the level of PAHs in the environment.
- A child's most significant exposure to PAHs comes from wood stoves and fireplaces, as well engine emissions (including cars, lawn and garden equipment, etc.). The PAH from these products is hundreds and thousands of times more prolific than coal tar sealant.
- There is NO scientific evidence that children or adults are at risk if they stand or touch dry pavement sealant.
- Sealants are a safe, effective product, especially when properly used.
- **No** regulatory agency, including the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), or The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have taken steps to ban the use of refined tar sealants. In fact, refined coal tar pavement sealant is not, nor has it ever been classified as a hazardous material by the EPA.
- Sealants are used to coat the insides of pipes that distribute drinking water and are a critical product for wastewater treatment systems.
- If sealants are as harmful as the advocates say, why are advocates amending the bill to permit the manufacturing of the product?
- Advocates say a manufacturing exemption will protect a few dozen union jobs in Baltimore City. However, hundreds of applicator jobs throughout the state would be at risk. This makes no sense.