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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB372: Safer Sealant Act of 2022

House Environment & Transportation Committee

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 | 1:00 pm

High-PAH sealants are used to protect and brighten driveways, parking lots, and even playgrounds. Unfortunately, this material is incredibly toxic when it contains extremely high levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). **Six years ago**, the American Medical Association [advocated for a nationwide ban](#) on coal tar sealants.

We track these sealants from our driveways into our homes on the bottom of our shoes, our dog's paws, etc. These high-PAH levels can cause [many health problems](#), including eye and skin irritation, nausea, and diarrhea. [Long-term exposure](#) can lead to asthma-like symptoms, decreased immune function, cataracts, organ damage, or cancer.

Marine life is also [damaged by dangerous PAHs](#) that seep into our waterways. The chemicals hinder growth in salamanders; impair development in frogs; cause liver damage in fish; and decrease the population of crabs, clams, and oysters.

As amended in the Senate, [SB372](#) would simply ban the use of sealants over 1.0% PAH weight in Maryland. *Airports, federal facilities, and military bases are exempt, because we cannot impose regulations on federally regulated properties.*

The science is clear. Over 26 research institutions have found that [high-PAH sealers are a danger to humans and the environment](#). Ace Hardware, Lowe's, Home Depot, TruValue, and many other stores stopped selling these sealants due to liability concerns. [Anne Arundel](#), [Howard](#), [Montgomery](#), and [Prince George's](#) Counties have already banned this toxic product.

There are many affordable and effective alternatives that are easily available. In fact, asphalt-based sealants have 0% PAH.

It's time to expand the ban of high-PAH sealants statewide to protect our ecosystems and all Marylanders. **I urge a favorable report on SB372.**