



The Village of Glenview

Coal Tar Pavement Sealant Regulations

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the ban?

The purpose of the ban is to regulate the use and sale of coal tar pavement sealants.

What is coal tar?

Coal tar is a thick, black or brown liquid that is a byproduct of the carbonization of coal for the steel industry or the gasification of coal to make coal gas. Coal tar is 50 percent or more Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) by weight and are a potential concern for human health and aquatic life.

What is coal tar used for?

Coal tar is used in certain pavement sealants. These types of sealants are no longer sold in local area home improvement stores (Home Depot, Menards) and are prohibited in the Village of Glenview.

When does the ban take effect?

May 1, 2018

What are PAHs?

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of chemicals that occur naturally in coal, crude oil, and gasoline. PAHs are also present in products made from fossil fuels, such as coal-tar pitch, creosote, and asphalt. PAHs can be released into the air during the burning of fossil fuels, garbage, or other organic substances. PAHs are of environmental concern because several are toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic (causing birth defects) to aquatic life, and several are probable human carcinogens. Exposure to PAHs, especially early in childhood, has been linked by health professionals to an increased risk of lung, skin, bladder and respiratory cancers.

What can I use instead of coal tar sealants?

The most common and cheapest alternative to coal tar now on the market is petroleum-based sealcoat. Asphalt sealcoats contain PAHs, but at as little as 1/1000th the PAH level of coal tar sealcoats. Good asphalt sealcoat emulsions are very affordable, will provide a black appearance for 1-2 years, and can provide less visible protection for 2-4 years if properly applied.

What if I want to pave my driveway myself and not hire a pavement sealant professional?

Residents who wish to seal pavement themselves can continue to do so. Sealants sold at major retailers such as Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Lowes and others have phased out coal tar products.

How do I know if a paver uses coal tar sealants?

Homeowners or businesses contracting for sealcoat services should ask up front if the product contains coal tar. Glenview now requires that any person engaging in pavement sealing have a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) available on the premises for the product being used for pavement sealing.

Do I need a permit to professionally pave driveways in the Village of Glenview?

No. The Village does not review or issue permits for sealing work unless it is included in a larger building plan and pavement sealing applicators are not required to register as a Village contractor since the work does not require a permit.

What is the penalty for violating the ordinance?

Could face fines as high as \$1,000 per day for each violation.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Please contact the Community Development Department at 847.904.4400 with questions. You may also stop by in person at Village Hall (2500 East Lake Avenue).