



Coal-Tar-Based Sealants

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.



Coal-Tar-Based Sealants

Coal-tar-based sealant is a thick black liquid that is applied to many parking lots to protect against cracking and water damage. A significant component of coal tar is polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs. Some PAHs are highly toxic chemicals that have known harmful impacts on humans and animals and are suspected to cause cancer.

Friction from vehicle tires wears down the sealant into small particles. These particles are washed off pavement by rain and carried down storm drains and into streams. If rain occurs before coal-tar sealant has dried, it washes into nearby water bodies, sometimes resulting in the death of fish and other aquatic life. Other seal coat particles adhere to vehicle tires and are transported to other surfaces, blown off site by wind, or tracked indoors on the soles of shoes.



How to Protect Yourself and the Environment

A more environmentally friendly alternative to coal-tar-based sealants is asphalt-based sealant. Request that contractors use asphalt-based sealant on your parking lot, driveway, etc. Contractors and distributors should provide a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) that lists product ingredients or components. Try to avoid products with ingredients that include the words "coal," "tar," "refined coal tar pitch," or "RT-12."

Solutions

Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

Following the best management practices for the sealant industry that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.

For More Information

To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding coal-tar-based sealant visit

<http://stormwater.charmeck.org> and click on Pollution Prevention.

Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.

The preferred BMP to protect the environment and human health is to choose an asphalt-based pavement sealant over a coal-tar-based pavement sealant.

Concentrations of toxic PAHs in coal-tar-based pavement sealants are about 1000 times higher than in asphalt-based products.

Never apply a coal-tar-based asphalt sealant when any type or amount of precipitation is forecast in the next 48 hour time period.

Spills and Leaks

SPILL KITS



- ◆ When transporting product containers on a vehicle, properly secure the containers to ensure that spills do not occur.
- ◆ Carry spill response materials on business vehicles in case a spill occurs.
- ◆ Do not hose down outside spills. Use absorbent and dry cleanup methods instead.
- ◆ Maintain equipment (tanks, hoses and fittings) to prevent leaks.
- ◆ Report spills and leaks greater than 25 gallons or any amount that enters the storm drain system to 311.

Inlet Protection



- ◆ During sealant application, use storm drain inlet protection measures to prevent sealant from entering storm drain drop inlets.
- ◆ These measures are temporary and must be implemented before sealant application.
 - ◆ Options include:
 - ◆ Fabric barriers around inlet entrances
 - ◆ Catch basin hydrocarbon filters
 - ◆ Sandbags can also be used to create temporary barriers at inlets.

Personal Protective Equipment

- ◆ Wear OSHA approved glasses, goggles or full face shield.
- ◆ Wear impervious gloves and clothing to prevent skin contact.



Employee Training

- ◆ Train all employees upon hiring and each year thereafter.
- ◆ Post these Best Management Practices where employees can see them.
- ◆ Report illegal dumping by calling 311.



Visit stormwater.charmeck.org and click on "Pollution Prevention" for more information.