

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Refined Coal Tar Sealants

Concerns and Control strategies

Type and Uses of Sealants

- Pavement sealers are applied to protect and beautify the surface
- Refined Coal Tar Sealants (CTS) are commonly used in the East and contain 3.4% to 20% PAH dry weight
- Asphalt-based sealants contain 0.03% to 0.66% PAH dry weight
- Over time, sealants abrade and need to be replaced

Problems with Coal Tar Sealants

- CTS have been identified as source of PAHs from parking lots
- PAH in runoff from refined CTS was typically 65 times higher than PAH from unsealed lots
- Estimated releases of 900 – 5800 Kg/Yr to NY/NJ Harbor watershed
- Estimated that CTS contributes 12% of PAH to Harbor

Measures to Reduce PAHs from Coal Tar Sealants

- Reduce need for parking lots
- Use low- or no-PAH sealants and consider alternate designs (gravel, concrete)
- Research whether CTS extend life of parking lot/driveway
- Promote better asphalt-based sealants
- Ban use of coal tar sealants