

From: [Victoria L Cerinich](#)
To: [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)
Subject: CC Environment & Sustainability Cmte - Item: 23-5769I Support a Ban on Coal Tar Sealants
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 3:03:04 PM
Attachments: [cidclip_image001.png](#)

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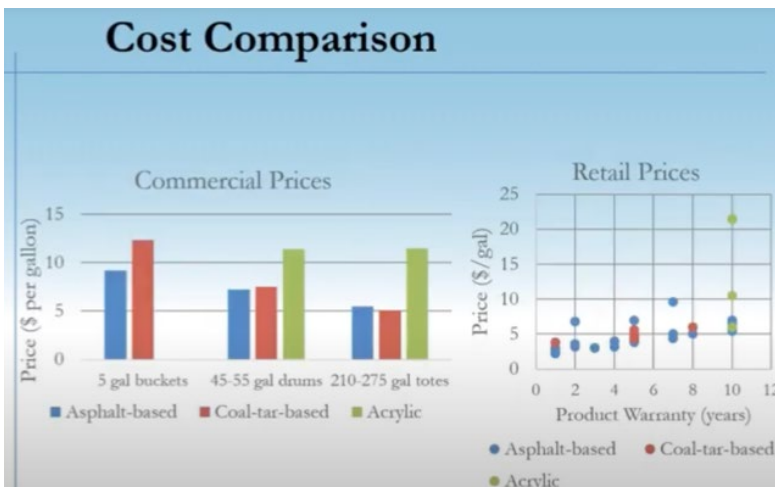
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I apologize for missing the survey form. Please accept my written support for item 23-5769, Coal Tar Sealant Ban. Victoria L Cerinich

I support banning Coal Tar Sealants in Cook County.

Alternatives to Coal Tar based sealants are available and not much different in price or durability.



On September 30, 2016, the American Medical Association submitted a resolution to the U.S. House of Representatives advocating for national legislation to ban the use of pavement

sealcoats that contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH); or at least, use sealcoat products that contain low or no PAH, specifically products where the concentration of PAH is less than 1/1000th the concentration in coal-tar sealcoats.

And published by the U.S. Geological Survey, the Fact sheet number ISSN 2327-6916 (print) or ISSN 2327-6932 (on-line):

Human Health Concerns for adults and most critically for children 0-6 years of age—As coal-tar-based sealcoat ages, it wears into small particles with high levels of PAHs that can be tracked into homes and incorporated into house dust. For people who live adjacent to coal-tar-sealcoated pavement, ingestion of PAH-contaminated house dust and soil results in an elevated potential cancer risk, particularly for young children. Exposure to PAHs, especially early in childhood, has been linked by health professionals to an increased risk of lung, skin, bladder, and respiratory cancers.²

Children ingest house dust and soil when they put their hands or objects into their mouth. Much of the estimated excess cancer risk associated with the ingestion of PAH-contaminated soil and house dust is incurred during early childhood. Think of all the day care center parking lots that have parking lots contaminated with the PAHs found in Coal Tar Sealants.

Aquatic Life in Local Rivers and Lake Michigan —Runoff from coal-tar-sealcoated pavement, even runoff collected more than 3 months after sealcoat application, is acutely toxic to fathead minnows and water fleas, two species commonly used to assess toxicity to aquatic life. Exposure to even highly diluted runoff from coal-tar-sealcoated pavement can cause DNA damage and impair DNA repair. These findings demonstrate that coal-tar-sealcoat runoff can remain a risk to aquatic life for months after application.

Air-Quality Concerns

Although unseen, releases of PAHs to the atmosphere (volatilization) from freshly coal-tar-sealed pavement are tens of thousands of times higher than from unsealed pavement.

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“...all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by...”