



ROAD WORK AHEAD

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Use of Water-based Emulsions vs. Coal Tar

Water-based asphalt emulsions by themselves do not have fuel resistive properties. The major upside to the use of the water-based asphalt emulsions is the non-flammable, non-carcinogenic, and environmentally friendly nature of the product. Additives can be used in the water-based asphalt emulsion sealcoats to provide fuel and oil resistive properties to the sealcoat to have similar resistive properties as coal tar sealcoats.

Coal tar sealcoats have environmental effects through the release of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which run off into streams and lakes after the application. Parking lots treated with coal-tar-based sealcoats are a major source of cancer-causing contaminants that can pollute air, soil, water and wildlife, posing a significant health risk to humans who may breathe, drink, or eat them in fish and other food. Water-based asphalt emulsions do not contain PAHs and have little to no known adverse health risks.

Another major benefit of water-based asphalt emulsion sealcoats are the facts that the mix design on the sealcoat can be modified to reflect the needs of the environment of the location of where the material is applied.

In short, if the desire is to use coal-tar sealer for the fuel resistive nature of the material using an additive in a water-based asphalt emulsion sealer will accomplish the same goals with greater concern to the environment, the applicators health and safety of the general public.