

A SEALCOAT THAT ISN'T SAFE for you and the environment

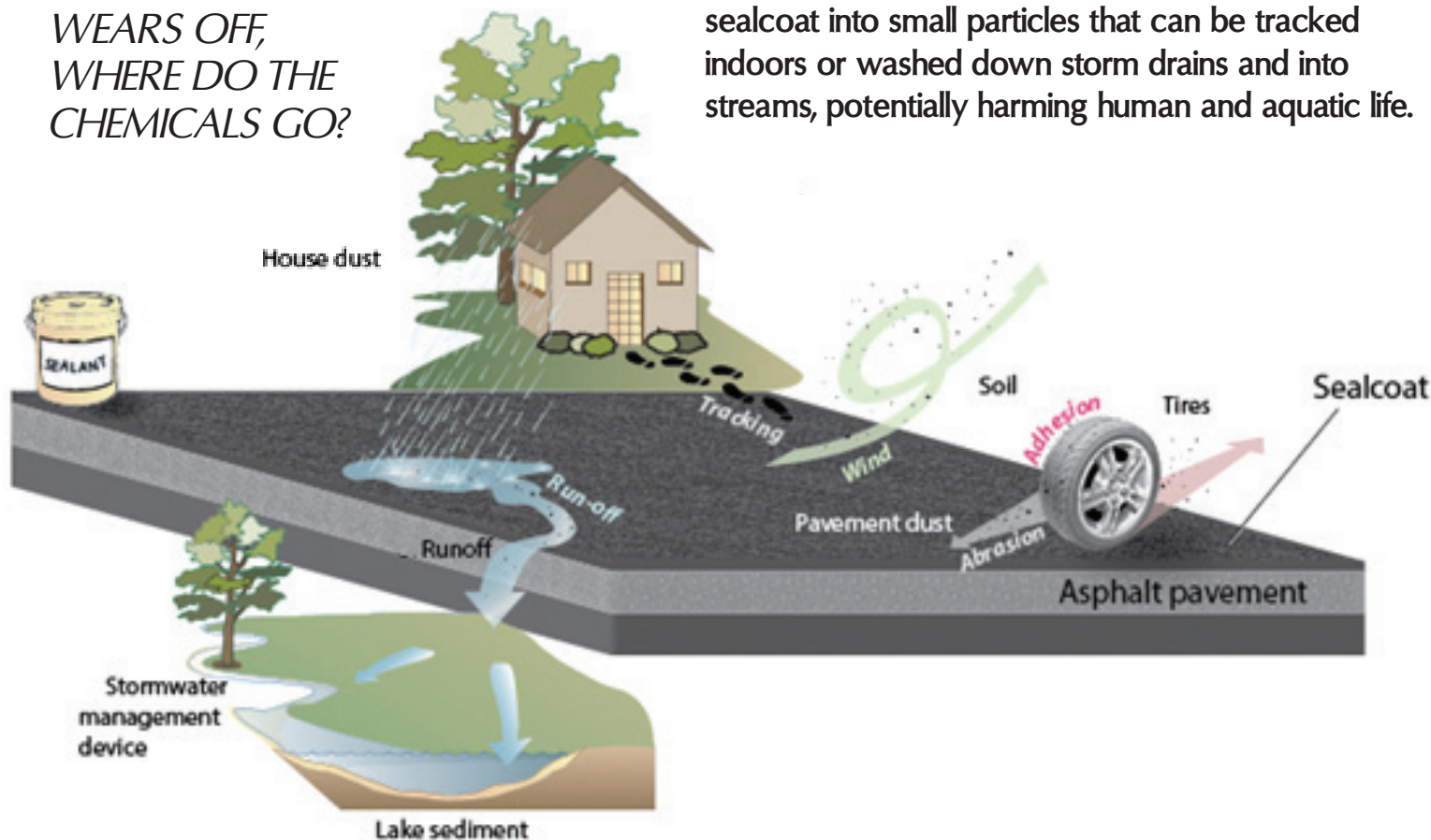
Sealcoat is the black, viscous liquid sprayed or painted on many asphalt parking lots, driveways, and playgrounds to protect the underlying asphalt and enhance its appearance.

The coal-tar-based formulation, commonly used across the central and eastern parts of the United States, contains elevated levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and related chemicals. Some states have banned the use of coal-tar-based sealants.

Safer alternatives include petroleum asphalt-based sealants.

AS SEALCOAT WEARS OFF, WHERE DO THE CHEMICALS GO?

Friction from vehicle tires abrades coal-tar-based sealcoat into small particles that can be tracked indoors or washed down storm drains and into streams, potentially harming human and aquatic life.



HEALTH RISK TO HUMANS AND ANIMALS: USGS research indicates that, 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. Runoff from coal-tar-sealcoated pavement is acutely toxic to fathead minnows and water fleas, two species commonly used to assess toxicity to aquatic life, and exposure to even highly diluted runoff can damage DNA and impair DNA repair.

— U.S. Geological Survey