



What's the greenest way to maintain an asphalt driveway?

Is there a sealcoat that does less environmental damage than others?



Over time asphalt sealcoats degrade and contribute pollutant related runoff into wetlands or other surface waters.

To reduce these pollutant contributions, some choose not to seal their driveways. Civil engineers and black-topping contractors say sealcoating is completely optional and doesn't affect durability. Sealants provide a deep black appearance, but the durability protection they provide is temporary. The sealcoat industry suggests reapplication every two to three years, depending on wear.

If you do decide to sealcoat your driveway, the product you use can make a difference. Choose one with an asphalt rather than coal tar base. Tests of parking lots by the U.S. Geological Survey found that a small amount of pollutants came off the unsealed parking lots. Lots with asphalt-based sealers had 10 times that amount and 65 times more pollutants came from the lots sealed with coal tar. The following list of products* contain no coal tar according to the product labels:

- Henry PM Premium Driveway Sealer/Filler (retail)
- Henry Elastometric Emulsion Crack Filler (retail)
- Pavesheid (wholesale or commercial)
- Jennite Asphalt Emulsion Pavement Sealer (wholesale or commercial)
- Gilsonite Asphalt Sealer (wholesale or commercial)

Never pour unused sealant down a stormdrain. Try to use up what you have (if product is usable) or donate it to a neighbor, paving contractor or other who may use it. Dried driveway sealer, either latex or oil-based, can be thrown in the trash with the lid off.

** Listings of a specific product trade name does not constitute an endorsement of its use. Many other sealant products are available and may be suitable for use other than those listed here.*

Information courtesy of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the City of Austin, Texas.