

abe5680

Wow - my father died from a pulmonary embolism following DVT (deep vein thrombosis) & he worked for most of his life on the roads - he was the materials engineer, and so would have potentially been in contact with these substances. To be honest, he had started to have some brain issues also towards the end and was only in his early 60s when he passed to his next vibration. I had always put this down to his high consumption of alcohol, but this would certainly seem to provide another explanation. So many poor decisions are made by authorities due to the constant desire to save money without any consideration of the risks involved (the costs of which are shifted elsewhere), because everything is considered in terms of its costs - once again, any costs become socialized to the health system and people's lives. Keep it coming though, because it's now becoming so obvious what the true causes of chronic disease are. Blake's phrase "dark satanic mills" comes to mind, even though he was supposedly actually referring to the orthodox churches of the establishment.

This just underlines the trend I see that so much of what has been made by man has turned out to be so damaging to everything and everyone except for those who were the major beneficiaries. The 'establishment' is still alive and well, but this will soon be coming to an end. We need to have more reverence for nature - non of her systems create this sort of damage and waste - so, it seems we really aren't as advanced as we think we are - I'm afraid humanity is suffering massively from the Dunning-Kruger effect: "The Dunning–Kruger effect is a cognitive bias in which low-ability individuals suffer from illusory superiority, mistakenly assessing their ability as much higher than it really is."

Posted On 01/10/2017

Guillermou

Yes, abc, it is a major health problem for PAHs. The problem is that when the wheels pass over, they essentially crush it and break it down into small dust particles. That dust comes to houses in shoes and hands. It also pollutes the soil and surrounding water after rain. High levels of PAH have been found in the aspirated dust in homes that are close to asphalt covered with a layer of sealant A new study, appearing in a recent issue of the journal Environmental Science & Technology, researchers compared PAH levels in dust collected from 23 ground level apartments in Austin. About half of the apartments were in front of parking lots covered with coal tar sealers, and the others were not.

Posted On 01/11/2017

Guillermou

Yes Mirandola. We generate toxicos by a bad management of the production and the consumption. The logic of the capitalist system itself generates the artificial creation of consumption needs, with the aim of maintaining a constant level of production. It creates the perception of a culture of permanent spending. So the current function of consumption is not to meet needs, but to satisfy desires. And as we have many more desires than needs, pathological consumption, ie consumerism. We must think of responsible consumption. Ecological, social and political organizations, which consider that human beings would do well to change their habits of consumption by adjusting them to their real needs, and opting in the market for options that favor the conservation of the environment, and social equality.

Posted On 01/11/2017

19beets

Nail on head in America's recent politics ...

Posted On 01/11/2017

RaajSingha

India is 'safer' than the US. We pave our roads with potholes.

Posted On 01/11/2017

iamblessediam

Comment of the day! I can relate because the city I live in no longer uses 'speed bumps' - they no longer repair the potholes;-))! Peace!

Posted On 01/11/2017

Randyfast

The sad fact is, that corporations will ALWAYS take 'shortcuts' in order to maximize PROFIT! They don't care who or what they damage, as long as the revenue continues to flow! We generally don't get much ice around here. We've had quite a bit over the past couple of weeks and there are tons of salt on the roads (the 'city' even stated that they ran out, at one point). I just shake my head. The world has become one huge toxic wasteland. If you don't consider it to be that bad...give it a little more time!

Posted On 01/11/2017

Guillermou

Indeed, Randy, money is sought, not the health of the person, not the conservation of the ecosystem, not responsible consumption. When a factory dumps toxic waste into a river, it is not only contaminating river water, but also fish, plants and humans that come in contact with it. As we have not yet learned how to make water, we should be careful when polluting our sources of this resource. And in the same way it happens with wood, air, minerals, crops ... etc. We use the means to survive. Contaminating the environment is a serious irresponsibility, and because the current production and consumption system is conducive to pollute nature, it is necessary to reflect on how the world works today. It may seem like a thought that leads nowhere, but only by questioning the established system can we change things

Posted On 01/11/2017

jamNjim

I never could stand the asphalt sealers that get applied to the surface of aged/failing asphalt parking lots. In the mid-South it wasn't that common until about 10 to 15 years ago. They used the stuff before then, but they used it as a crack sealer and they would have two trucks. One truck had the heated coal tar sealer and a nozzle for filling the cracks. A second truck would be full of sand that would get applied on top of the crack sealer. This method guaranteed that the coal tar STAYED in place with minimum degradation (breaking down and washing away otherwise). They only applied it where there were cracks! Then one day I see them applying this crapp to entire road surfaces and parking lots!! OMG! You couldn't breathe! I think Wal-Mart was the first place that did this and suddenly EVERYONE was doing it. The smell doesn't go away in a few days/weeks like petroleum based sealers and asphalt. The smell last for months or even a year+! About the time the smell dissipates it starts turning gray in color and begins to fall apart. That's when they come back and lay another coat. I can only imagine how toxic this stuff is since I can't even stand to breathe it. I avoid going places that have this sealer on their parking lots. For one, it gets on your shoes in the hot summer. I'm glad Dr. Mercola shared this information today. Otherwise, I probably would have never researched it.

Posted On 01/11/2017

grulla

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but wasn't the old time, original sealer true tar, where as the newer variety is some chemical company modern toxic latex concoction??? One answer to this toxicity is the venerable, old time recipe(s) for various blends of soil cement. I believe that has been very popular over the years, especially in the rural south. www.cement.org/.../soil-cement

Posted On 01/11/2017

jeffbaker

Today a lot of ponds that you find in newly built areas are designed to contain the run off from the roads. A few years ago I observed a light industrial area where I used to live in northern Illinois and saw that many of the bushes and trees were dead or nearly so. I found out that the water in the retention ponds near the roads were used to water the lawns and plants. The ponds are filled from the street run off and in the winter road salt would end up in the ponds. Over the years too much salt accumulated and the plant life suffered because of it.

Posted On 01/11/2017

jeffbaker

Thanks for the info mirandola - I have read about the oyster mushrooms and will buy the fungi book. I have always wanted to learn more about fungi and the fungi.com site looks good.

Posted On 01/11/2017

grulla

The article title reads, "Toxic Roads Are Paving the Way to Trouble" Just one more reason for the old adage, "The road to Hell is paved with the best of intentions" :-(

Posted On 01/11/2017

Guillermou

You, Grulla, it's great, you nailed it "The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction." Rachel Carson

Posted On 01/11/2017

frototo

This reminds me of those TV Big Pharma drug commercials where the alleged benefits of the drug are mentioned for fifteen seconds and the next forty-five seconds are the harmful side effects (while video shows happy drug users instead of drug users being ravished by the side effects). With most everything that offers a benefit, there ARE some harmful/toxic effects (HmMMM, we should call this a "law", like Moore's Law of computer chip technology). Maybe there should be a Federal Law that requires a public disclaimer on products like road sealers before sold. Actually, this was done... sort of, decades ago in California with Prop. 65 warnings that products sold at retail outlets or nearby can cause cancer. The practical matter of this is that virtually every retail business in California be in a gasoline station or supermarket window has an obligatory -- CYA (cover-your-ass legally) -- Posted in the window or stuck on a gas pump. There are like wallpaper which nobody pays attention to. Well, it appears that government is beginning to address environmental effects and not just cost benefits in our roads and highways. But beware that there will be inevitable tradeoffs.

Posted On 01/11/2017

Coal_Tar_Free

Dr. Mercola,

Thank you for this article and making your readers (40k+ at this time) aware of this issue! We at Coal Tar Free America advocate for the elimination of this product from our supply chain, homes and the environment. Currently coal tar sealers are banned for about 20 million Americans.

Just one clarification that is important to your readers: 99% of the time this product is the liquid goo that is applied to parking lots, driveways and playgrounds. Sometimes it is used on private subdivision roads and rarely on public roads.

How do you know what is toxic and what isn't? On the pavement if it smells like mothballs or a telephone pole then it is likely coal tar. If you're not sure, then there is a simple screen test on our website using materials that you can buy from a hardware store. Here's the link:

coaltarfreeamerica.blogspot.com/2010/12/field-test-for-coal-tar-sealan..

Thanks again!

Tom Ennis

Coal Tar Free America

Posted On 05/29/2017

joh788443

What is the option for this dilemma? They just did our streets about 10 months ago in front of our house. It was very difficult to be around this stuff. How long before the toxic stuff is off gassed? I'm in Florida and would think the heat would break these chemicals down more rapidly.

Posted On 01/11/2017

Valentius

Disgusting. I live in the PNW, so I am glad to see that people here are looking to address this. I am in a corporate apartment complex where maintenance is a bit extreme. I believe there were two occasions in two years when they completely redid the parking lots. They did it in summer, of course, so the (indeed!) nostril-burning stench came in through the windows before I realized what was happening. Something that hurts that much to breathe cannot be good for anyone.

Posted On 01/11/2017

Coal_Tar_Free

Valentius,

Just to be clear, only the State of Washington has addressed this in the PNW. Oregon hasn't and neither have CA or ID.

Which state do you live in?

Tom

Posted On 10/13/2017

juststeve

Yet, things like raw milk and so many healthy measures, activities are viciously attacked yet things like this are spread out all across the board like peanut butter and jelly on bread.

Posted On 07/18/2024

Guillermou

Very true Just. Alongside Safe Thaw, another game-changer in the deicing industry is Traction Magic. This product is a traction agent that provides instant traction on icy surfaces, perfect for use on sidewalks, steps, or even for car traction. It's 100% natural and safe for pets, people, and property. Traction Magic is made from a blend of natural volcanic rock and seven other minerals. It works by absorbing the liquid layer on top of the ice, allowing the grippers to lock into the ice creating a stable non-skid surface. As the ice melts, Traction Magic maintains its grip on the surface, providing traction until the ice is gone. For disposal, simply sweep Traction Magic into your garden or toss it into the trash. Other recommendations and video in the link----- tractionmagic.com/eco-friendly-de-icer -

Posted On 07/18/2024

gol9767

When I was a child I had severe eczema. The doctor my parents took me to gave me a prescription for the eczema that contained coal tar. It was used generously on me. It didn't even help get rid of the eczema. This was back in the 60s when people didn't question their doctors as much as they do today. I'm still alive at 66 and haven't had a problem with eczema since I became an adult. Whenever I smell driveway sealant it reminds me of my childhood problem with eczema :(

Posted On 07/18/2024

juststeve

Ditto, given for severe acne! That and some junk smelling like sulfur. Didn't help and stank like all get out. Skin would peel like a bad sunburn.

Posted On 07/18/2024

AuntTammie

It's also used in some dandruff shampoos.....really brilliant idea! (yes, that was intended to be sarcastic)

Posted On 07/18/2024

AuntTammie

Any times roads/paths/parking areas/etc are sealed with that stuff I can't be anywhere near them for weeks without having a major asthma attack, getting a migraine, feeling dizzy & just generally sick, & having brain fog. And, even a month or two later, I still have some problems being around it, though to a much smaller degree.

Posted On 07/18/2024
