

THE ULTIMATE *Move - In* CLEANING SYSTEM

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME FROM
FILTHY TO SPARKLING BRAND NEW IN 24 HOURS



MARIA OQUENDO

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME FROM FILTHY TO SPARKLING BRAND NEW IN 24 HOURS



Very professional and thorough cleaners

Maria's Cleaning Service always cleans our house so well...we look forward to cleaning day because we're left with a spotless, dust-free, fresh smelling house, which has become extra important now that we have a newborn baby. At first we were reluctant to pay for cleaners thinking we could do it ourselves, but we've come to realize that it's worth the money!

- **Olivia**

Great service, great attitude!

Jimmy and the crew came to my house bright and early on a saturday morning and not only did a wonderful job, but were extremely pleasant and nice to work with. Many times you get one or the other, but rarely both. Was really pleased and would recommend and use again.

- **Thomas Ponticelli**

Great Job!!!

Great customer service!! Excellent cleaning crew! Friendly & professional! I would recommend them & I'm a customer for life :-) - **M.E.**

Couldn't be more thrilled

This is a very professional cleaning service. I was contacted within 24 hours of submitting an inquiry. The assessment was scheduled for the same day and they were able to come to my house promptly. The crew arrived on time, they were extremely hard working and the house looked awesome when they finished. I definitely recommend this service and I would use them again. - **Sara G**

Excellent!!

I hired Maria's Cleaning Service for a Move Out/Move In cleaning at a rental property of mine. They did an EXCELLENT JOB!! I would recommend them to anyone needing any type of cleaning service!! - **Michele E**

Above and Beyond

Great job, very thorough, cleaned even more than I had asked. Very professional. Used their own cleaning supplies and my house did not smell of bleach, etc when they were done. Definitely will recommend! - **D.C.**

Great experience

Maria's Cleaning Service was professional, courteous and thorough. The best part was that I was not stuck home all day! They have a wonderful crew that were able to be in and out of my house with in a few hours. I highly recommend this company. - **Nadine S**



About

THE AUTHOR



Maria Oquendo is an acclaimed professional cleaning service business owner, Latina business leader, and advisor to small cleaning service companies. Her experience for over 23 years in the cleaning service industry has included major clients in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Maria has also developed the concept of holistic cleaning for clients with health and emotional challenges. She lives in Yonkers, New York.

Transform your home into a Sparkling Brand New *today!*



Visit www.ClassyService.Net for NY & CT

Visit www.CleaningServiceBergen.com for NJ



THE ULTIMATE *Move-In* CLEANING SYSTEM

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME FROM FILTHY TO SPARKLING BRAND NEW IN 24 HOURS



THE ULTIMATE *Move-In* CLEANING SYSTEM

Transform Your Home from Filthy to Sparkling Brand New in 24 Hours

MARIA OQUENDO



Acknowledgments

I would like to thank everyone in our company for having contributed to the development and enrichment of our client's lives. Thanks to their discipline and determination, to everyone in our organization. I want to thank each and every employee for their help and always playing their A Game to make this a brand new experience for every life we touch every day. I also want to thank Fei Ruanto for her unconditional love and for her tremendous contribution to our New Jersey branch.

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I want to THANK each and every employee for their HELP and always playing their A GAME to make this a brand new experience for every life we touch every day.

will always live in my heart. Thanks for always backing me up when I most needed them. It's always a pleasure to work with them. I get to remember our childhood and all the things we had gone through in life.

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”

I also want to thank EVERYONE with whom I have had the privilege and honor to work and make their lives better than when we met.



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Introduction

It's a great pleasure and honor to share this time with you. After having helped hundreds of clients with their Move-In Cleaning Projects, I've decided to put it all together into a system that can be implemented right away. If you follow this system step by step, you will be able to achieve the time freedom from moving into your new home, plus get a brand new healthy home for you and your family. You will also be able to take full control of your Move-In project, and you will be able to move into a healthy home, and you will be able to securely send your kids to play on the floor. But most importantly, you will be able to move into your new home with confidence, and you will be able to manage this mega project into easy actionable steps.

I will be showing you how to delegate the duties so that you can have an easy flow of your cleaning service before you move in. I will also show you how you can achieve a healthy home by using the right products and tools. If you stick with this system, I will show you how you can almost put this whole project in auto pilot by knowing how to effectively and efficiently delegate. You can achieve the peace of mind that your home will be thoroughly clean before the movers bring all your furniture and all your stuff into your home.

I will be showing you how to delegate the duties so that you can have an easy flow of your cleaning service before you move in.

”

You can apply all these techniques immediately, as this is exactly what I use to roll out our cleaning



This system is going to help you tackle it into easy to swallow chunks so you don't get overwhelmed.

service teams on every Move-In Cleaning we perform every day. This system has been mastered and improved several times, just to make sure you only get the most of your time, increase your time leverage, maximize your resources, and can finally take a hot shower in a brand new healthy bathroom, while your kids play on the floor.

Ok, so let's break this down into 3 parts so you can actually have a better control of this Move-In System. This system is going to help you tackle it into easy to swallow chunks so you don't get overwhelmed. At the end of your journey you will be so happy and thrilled to know that you can now walk into your home with confidence, and you'll be able to enjoy a warm bathtub with a eucalyptus aroma, walk with your barefoot and feel the warm clean wood floor, take a deep breath smelling the natural organic aromas, come open your cabinets clean handles, get your drink and grab your polished stainless steel handle and see a clean neat refrigerator, all thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. The way it should be!

Let the party begin!



PART I

PREPARATION

A. TOOLS, EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES:

The tools, equipment and cleaning supplies preparation must be done 1 week in advance. Depending on what you want to do, you can take care little by little one day at a time. Don't wait for the day before the cleaning or the same day of the cleaning to go out and purchase all of these items.

Tools

- Extension Pole (1)
- Floor Scrubber (2)
- Deep Clean Brush Set (1)
- Shower Scrubbing Brush (1)
- Grout Brush (1)
- Protective Masks (1 Box)
- 14 Qt Buckets (3)
- No Scratch Scrub Sponge (2)
- Brillo Pads (3)
- Toilet Bowl Brush (1)
- Broom & Dust Pan (1)
- Household Scrub Brush (1)
- 2 Step Ladder (1)
- 6 Feet Ladder (1)



Equipment

- HEPA Electrolux Canister Vacuum
- General Construction Vacuum

Cleaning Supplies

- **Dusting:** Swiffer Sweeper Dry Sweeping Cloths
- **Bathroom:** Method Antibacterial Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Method Bathroom Cleaner, Method Daily Granite Cleaner, Clorox Disinfectant, Method Glass & Surface Cleaner.
- **Kitchen:** Method Daily Granite, Clorox Disinfectant, Method Antibacterial Kitchen Cleaner, Brillo, Vinegar, Method Glass & Surface Cleaner
- **Rooms in General:** Vinegar, Method Glass & Surface Cleaner, Method All-Purpose Cleaner
- **Floors:** Bona Wood Floor Cleaner, Bona Stone Floor Cleaner
- **Kitchen:** 2 Units of 8"x8" White Cotton Towels for Cleaning + 2 Units of 1'x2' White Cotton Towels for Mopping the Floor
- **Bathroom:** 2 Units of 8"x8" White Cotton Towels for Cleaning + 2 Units of 1'x2' White Cotton Towels for Mopping the Floor (This is Per Bathroom)

B. TIME MANAGEMENT AND TEAM SELECTION

Time Management

a. Bathroom

- 1 Hour for Average Condition per Full Bathroom [Add 30 Minutes for Jacuzzi]
- 2 Hours for After Construction per Full Bathroom [Add 30 Minutes for Jacuzzi]

b. Kitchen

- 2 Hours for Standard Size Kitchen in Average Condition [Add 30 Minutes for Oven]
- 3 Hours for Standard Size Kitchen in After Construction Condition [Add 30 Minutes for Oven]



c. Dust Removal

- i. 30 Minutes for Average Condition per Room by 1 Person (Includes Doors, Closets, and Windows)
- ii. 1 Hour for After Construction per Room- Dusting: To remove dust off all surfaces
- iii. Includes all light fixtures, ceiling fans, cleaning of sashes in windows, inside the shelves units

d. Vacuuming

- i. 15-30 Minutes per Room on Average Condition (Includes vacuuming of closets, floors, removal of cobwebs)
- ii. 30-45 Minutes per Room for After Construction on Average Condition (Includes vacuuming of closets, floors, removal of cobwebs)

Team Selection

- a. **Dust Removal:** Assign one of the team members based on her/his experience of having done it in the past. Another important factor to consider is if the person is tall enough to save you time in not using the ladder to reach high to reach areas. Another great consideration is to see if the person will be able to use the extension pole, as it requires the person to manage it to reach high ceilings.
- b. **Bathroom:** Assign one person to clean all the bathrooms. Select this person based on height, the shorter the better. A person who can actually get on her knees and easily bend her legs so that you get a thorough cleaning to the bottom of the toilet. We prefer having crew member who are short and thin. Make sure the person has a good grip so that she can actually wash or scrub the wall tiles and shower area, and later to scrub mop the floor.
- c. **Kitchen:** Assign one person to complete the entire kitchen by herself. Things to take into consideration are height and ability for the person to easily cover multiple tasks simultaneously. The kitchen has a lot of areas, more than the bathroom, so we're looking for people who can actually manage various tasks, who are organized in their work flow, so that they can keep track of all items in the kitchen. Height of the person is also important, but not highly important, since the kitchen is



an open area, the person can use a ladder in any event. We prefer working with thin people in the kitchen, and people who can easily sit on their ankles, as they need to clean inside the lower cabinets, and who are thin enough to reach all walls inside the refrigerator, inside the oven, and underneath the oven drawer compartment.

- d. **Vacuuming:** Assign one person who is preferably comfortable with carrying the vacuum. It's somewhat heavy depending on the model you are going to get from Electrolux. We prefer the person strong enough to carry the vacuum, since the wood floors of the house might be brand new, so don't risk putting a person who is going to roll the vacuum on the brand new floor and create a scratch on the floor. The person must be able to withstand dust and the noise of the vacuum engine, and deal with dust as well. Preferably provide with an eye protection mask. Specially if there's a lot of dust, or if they have just done the floors and there's dust all over the house. The person must be in good shape to bend and reach high areas to remove some of the cobweb that could be accumulated on the corners of the house. Also make sure the person is well hydrated as this is a task that gets you drenched out easily. Plenty of water and protein bars from time to time.
- e. **Mopping:** Assign one person who is preferably thin but has a lot of stamina. We recommend a thin person, preferably short, but not necessarily. We recommend short because the person must be able to clean the baseboards, and get on the hard to reach corners by hand. Therefore, the person must be able to stretch and work on her knees, and rest on her ankles. Rest on her ankles because the person must be able to rinse the mopping towels several times. So, we need a person flexible enough to handle this mopping part of the project.
- f. **Finishing:** Assign one person who is very detailed with her things in general. We definitely want this person at the end of the job. This person must be able to cope and understand with the work of the entire crew. We prefer this person to go through the entire work with a check out list to make sure all bases were covered.



C. MEAL PLAN, HYDRATION & SLEEPING:

Cleaning is a very physical intensive activity and requires also a great deal of concentration. This is why it's highly recommended to first rest well the night before the cleaning day, and second to eat well, and hydrate properly throughout the entire day. Make sure you get a minimum of 8 hours of sleep the night before, anything less will just create chaos in your whole project. If you sleep well, you will be able to delegate accordingly and also save time by not going all over the project. If you can listen to a meditation audio the night before and roll the whole project out in your mind as having been completed on time and with ease, then you run the risk of achieving it. Make sure all your purchases of the tools and supplies have been done the night before and that all the tools, equipment, and supplies are either in the location of the job or in your car. Don't wait until the following morning to put all the tools, equipment and supplies until the following day. Everything should be ready to proceed with the project. The morning runs faster than the afternoon time. I don't know why but it does. So, plan on starting your day early and make sure all your team members are well aware of the time you all start. It's highly recommended that you all start together at the same time. If there's a consensus from the beginning then you can and will make it. If you can have them all picked up in one car, it is better, that way you ensure that they will be all on time.

Don't wait until the following morning to put all the tools, equipment and supplies until the following day.

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Meal Plan

- Protein Shakes (GNC Ready Made Shakes)
- Light Breakfast (Small Sandwich and Tea/Coffee)
- Fruits (Bananas of preference)
- Protein Bars (Cliff Bars)
- Light Lunch (Salads of preference)



Hydration

- **Water:** Drink plenty of water before, during, and after the cleaning. Cleaning is a very physical intensity activity, and it could quickly dehydrate you in just a couple of hours. Don't drink too much water either, as you won't be able to be flexible, and be able to bend down as well.
- **Gatorade:** another great drink to have on your side that will replenish your body minerals is Gatorade.
- **Lemonade:** for those heavy hot summer days, you can definitely have fresh cold lemonades.

Sleeping

- You must have at least 8 hours of full rest



PART II

**DUSTING, DISINFECTING,
AND VACUUMING****A. DUST REMOVAL:**

Making sure that all the settled dust in the house is properly removed is your ticket to a safe and healthy move in day. If you obey by these rules, then your likelihood of rolling your whole project out are maximized. Now, let's understand that prior to your move in day, you don't know if the previous owner had maintained the house on a regular basis. You also don't know how long the house has been vacant. So, in order to secure a healthy move in, please make sure you remove the settled dust from the walls and ceiling. Please take a look at this report from the USGS department so you can see the dangers of the settled dust. (See under Supplemental Documents)

So, just pay attention to all the settled dust in your home before moving in. Now in regards to the actual procedures here's a helpful list that will allow you to thoroughly clean your walls and ceiling off of dust:



Walls & Ceiling

1. Use a Swifer pad and attach to the extension pole or stick
2. Start removing the dust off the ceiling first
3. Then start removing the dust off the walls
4. Get rid of all the dirty Swifer pads.
5. Make sure you also reach the baseboards as your removing the dust off the walls

Ceiling Fans

1. Use a Swifer pad for the Ceiling Fan
2. Start removing the dust off the Ceiling Fan Top
3. Start removing the dust off the Ceiling Fan Blades
4. Start removing the dust off the Ceiling Fan Lights

Windows & Doors

1. Use a Swifer pad to remove all the dust off the windows
2. Use another Swifer pad to remove the dust off the doors
3. Make sure you cover all the areas of the window and the doors
4. Make sure all the window molding and door molding is thoroughly cleaned

Closets

1. Use a pad and extension to reach the inner walls and ceiling of the closet
2. Use another pad by itself to remove all the dust off the shelves
3. Make sure you clean all the clothes hanging poles within the closets
4. If it's a walk in closet, then make sure you clean inside all the drawers as well



NOTE: *If it's an after construction cleaning, then you will do the same steps, except that it will require more time and more Swifer pads. You are going to be using the pads and almost throwing them out just with a few passes. The reason it gets more tedious for After Construction is that you have all the dust from the sheetrock cutting, the wood cutting, the floor sanding, and all the construction activities that have gone inside the house. It's definitely better to hire a professional cleaning service company to take care of your after construction cleaning. This way you ensure that the cleaning is professionally conducted without any bias opinion from the contractors.*



B. DISINFECTING:

The next phase after removing all the dust off the walls, ceiling, windows, door, and closets, is disinfecting all the areas you just went over. At this point everything is dust free, it's now time to apply pressure and start removing all the germs, dirt and grime off all surfaces.

For this part you are going to need the following things:

- Bucket with water and vinegar
- Method All-Purpose Disinfectant
- Method for Glass and Surface Cleaner
- 2 Towels: 8"x8" towel for disinfecting, and one blue microfiber towel for the glass.
- 1 Big Towel: 1' x 2' to cover the floor
- Pair of skin gloves

Here are the steps necessary to achieve this:

Ceiling Fan

- 1st Prepare a bucket with 3 gallons of water and ¼ cup of vinegar
- 2nd Rinse the rag inside the bucket with water and vinegar
- 3rd Squeeze the towel and apply Method Disinfectant on the towel
- 4th Start working on the Ceiling Fan Top, Blades and Lights
- 5th Apply Method Glass to the blue towel and make the cover for the lights shine



<http://youtu.be/UP5qpSIXfB0>

Windows

- 1st Prepare a bucket with 3 gallons of water and ¼ cup of vinegar
- 2nd Rinse the rag inside the bucket with water and vinegar
- 3rd Squeeze the towel and apply Method Disinfectant on the towel
- 4th Start working on the windows by cleaning all the areas of the window
- 5th Apply Method Glass to the blue towel and make those window glasses shine

NOTE: *Please make sure you apply pressure especially to the area of most contact which is the area where the people open and close the window. This means the area around the lock, and the bottom half of the window frame. The upper half is usually filled with dirt, but it can be easily removed.*





Whereas the area on the bottom half of the window is usually dirty due to common use.

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION: *In homes where the previous owner had kids, please make sure you apply a lot of pressure to the areas around the base of the window and the glass itself*

Doors

- 1st Prepare a bucket with 3 gallons of water and ¼ cup of vinegar
- 2nd Rinse the rag inside the bucket with water and vinegar
- 3rd Squeeze the towel and apply Method Disinfectant on the towel
- 4th Start working on the all areas of the door, top, sides, front and back
- 5th Use Clorox to remove the dirt of hand marks from the area around the door handles



NOTE: *Please make sure that as you're cleaning and disinfecting all these areas, you need to apply pressure so you can thoroughly clean it. It's not about wiping off the dirt. It's about removing all the dirt off these areas. Especially the areas with most contact. Front of the door: area around the handle, and the area at the eye level (people tend to touch these 2 areas the most).*

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION: *If the previous owner owned a pet, then you really have to work on the area between the knee level all the way down. The dogs and cats usually rub against these areas continuously, and they get very dirty and messy. Please also apply a couple of sprays of Clorox on your towel, in case you encounter heavy dirty areas.*

Closets

- 1st Prepare a bucket with 3 gallons of water and ¼ cup of vinegar
- 2nd Rinse the rag inside the bucket with water and vinegar
- 3rd Squeeze the towel and apply Method Disinfectant on the towel
- 4th Start working on the all areas of the closet, including all the shelves, tubes, and drawers
- 5th Use Clorox to remove the dirt from the area around the handles of the closet drawers



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NOTE: *Please make sure that as you're cleaning and disinfecting all these areas, you need to apply pressure so you can thoroughly clean it. It's not about wiping off the dirt. It's about removing all the dirt off these areas.*

Walls

- 1st Prepare a bucket with 3 gallons of water and ¼ cup of vinegar
- 2nd Rinse the rag inside the bucket with water and vinegar
- 3rd Squeeze the towel and apply Method Disinfectant on the towel
- 4th Start working on the Walls, Light Switches, Outlets and Wall Vents
- 6th Apply a couple of sprays of Clorox onto the towels to work on areas that are really dirty.



NOTE: *Make sure you apply pressure onto it. It's not about wiping off the dirt. It's about removing the dirt and making those baseboards brand new white again.*

Baseboards

- 1st Prepare a bucket with 3 gallons of water and ¼ cup of vinegar
- 2nd Rinse the rag inside the bucket with water and vinegar
- 3rd Squeeze the towel and apply Method Disinfectant on the towel
- 4th Start working on the baseboards. It's time to sit on your ankles and start washing the dirt off the baseboards.
- 5th Apply a couple of sprays of Clorox onto the towels to work on areas that are really dirty.



NOTE: *Make sure you apply pressure onto it. It's not about wiping off the dirt. It's about removing the dirt and making those baseboards brand new white again.*



C. VACUUMING:

The next phase after cleaning and disinfecting the Ceiling Lights, Walls, Windows, Doors, Baseboards, and closets, is Vacuuming. If you make sure that the floor is thoroughly vacuumed, then you have a higher likelihood of saving a great deal of time. You know why? It's less work for the person who is going to mop right after you finish vacuuming. So, make sure you follow the steps with very deep detailed understanding of knowing that what you do will affect the work of the rest of the group.

For this part you are going to need the following things:

- HEPA Electrolux Canister Vacuum
- Electrolux Vacuum Bare Floor Attachment
- Electrolux Vacuum Carpet Floor Attachment
- Electrolux Vacuum Nozzle Attachment
- Electrolux Vacuum Disposable Vacuum Bag
- Electrolux Vacuum New Filter Unit
- 20 Feet Extension Cord

Here are the steps required to vacuum:

1. Vacuum all the corners of the floor using the Nozzle Attachment
2. Vacuum the wood floor using the Bare Floor Attachment
3. Vacuum the carpet area using the Carpet Floor Attachment
4. Vacuum the sofas using the Sidekick Attachment Unit (In case there are sofas)



PART III

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM CLEANING AND SANITATION

A. KITCHEN CLEANING AND SANITATION:

Next on our list is the cleaning and sanitation of your Sanctuary Kitchen. Your health pretty much depends on what you ingest after you move in. You want to make sure that the person working in the kitchen spends time really working on all areas of the kitchen. If you want to avoid developing any stomach diseases, or ingesting bacteria from the previous owner, then invest a great deal of time working on every surface area of your kitchen. It becomes highly important if you are going to be staying with most of the appliances from the previous owner.



Refrigerator - INSIDE

The first area you want to start cleaning is the Refrigerator. Make sure that all the drawers and shelves are properly removed. What you want to envision here is to make it as easy as possible for you to place your food into the refrigerator. This is the point where you remove all the sticky food from the previous owner. Get all the stains from soy sauce on the walls, remove all the ketchup spills on the door, and get all the crumbs



out of the rubber liner on the door. This is a great chance to make sure that your health depends a lot on doing a proper cleaning of the inside of the refrigerator. The trick here that will save you a ton of time is in using hot water to remove all those hard-to-remove-sticky areas in the refrigerator. Make sure you also clean the freezer of the refrigerator. If the unit you are inheriting from the previous owner is very old. I would highly recommend you get a brand new unit. It's really not worth it to spend a lot of time cleaning the refrigerator when you are going to have to replace it. It's much easier for your health and the health of your kids to just get a brand new, at the end of the day, what you want to have a safe and clean environment to store your food. Instead use that time to take care of other areas of the kitchen.

Refrigerator – OUTSIDE

Whether you are going to keep the same refrigerator or get a replacement unit, I highly recommend you moving the refrigerator to the front so you can vacuum and mop in the back of the refrigerator. Here's a quick video of how it should be properly done:



<http://youtu.be/yxnL7h6861M>

Stove

There are 1000 ways to really clean your stove. Depending on the type of stove you have. My concept here is very broad due to the wide variety of stoves that are out in the market. My best recommendation will be to actually consult with your manual and find out what is the best way to do it. My biggest contribution will be to prevent you from using any harsh chemicals like Ammonia, or something that will just kill you. Yes, it does a heck of a great job, but you are the one who is ultimately going to be breathing into these gases. Here's my best tip. For the grate burners you can use a sponge because they actually collect a lot of the dirt. For the stove top, please avoid using any abrasive sponges. If you are going to use a sponge, I will recommend you using a plastic braided sponge. For the paneling where the clock is located, in case your stove has a clock, then just use a rag with Method Multi Purpose Cleaner. Use a bucket of water with vinegar to rinse the rag, and use Method Multi-Purpose Cleaner to work around the stove top area. I have had really bad experience trying to use abrasive sponges because the condition of the stove top was so horrible that I ended up regretting it later on. Please do yourself a favor,



and simply apply a lot of pressure to this are of the stove and make sure you rinse the towel very often.

Oven

For the cleaning of the oven, there's also a billion ways to clean the oven. Depending on what kind of oven you have, I will highly recommend you browsing through your manual and make sure you follow the steps. As a general basis, there's a couple of ways you can go about it. If you have an oven that is in really bad shape with food drops all over the base of the oven. You can purchase a Fume Free Oven Cleaner, and let it sit for 30 minutes, and then just use a towel to rinse it off. Make sure you clean the inside of the walls very thoroughly. In regards to the trays, you can take it out and use Brillo to remove the dirt off the trays. After you're done cleaning them, make sure you rinse the trays very well with warm water, let it sit to dry off, and the use a towel to thoroughly remove any residue left from the Brillo.

Dishwasher

For the cleaning of your Dishwasher, I will highly recommend you checking your manual first. As a general rule, make sure you remove all the trays from the dishwasher. Then use a towel with water and vinegar and start cleaning all the walls inside the dishwasher. We prefer to also wash all the trays and compartment units from the dishwasher; you can simply use soap and water. Make sure you rinse it well, and then place back. Here's a part that very few people pay attention to. This part is the area where the rubber meets the road. It is specifically the rubber band around the door of the dishwasher. Make sure that you actually get to all the seams inside the rubber of the door. Also the inner edge of the dishwasher should be thoroughly cleaned. Also the area around the border of the encasing cabinet usually gets very dirty with soap accumulation deposits. The outer part of the door should be cleaned at the end. First use water and vinegar, and work around all the areas around the buttons, all the control panel, and then apply pressure to clean the exterior of the door. At the end, if it's a stainless steel door, you can apply Stainless Steel Polisher. If it's a vinyl cover, then simply apply Method Glass.

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For the cleaning of your Dishwasher, I will highly recommend you checking your manual first.



Countertop & Backsplash

The first part before cleaning the countertop is to wash and clean the backsplash. Nowadays, the most common backsplashes are made of glass tiles, or just simple tiles. For this part just use your towel with water and vinegar, and apply a spray of Method Kitchen Disinfectant. We highly recommend using just the pressure from your hands onto the backsplash. Please avoid using any abrasive sponges as they could scratch and damage your backsplash.



The second part is cleaning and disinfecting your countertops. For this part of the exercise, also find out what type of countertop you have. If you have a special type of rare stone, please consult with your contractor prior to cleaning it. If you know it's granite, marble, or stone, then use a towel with water and vinegar and apply a couple of sprays of Method Granite Cleaner. Now, depending on the condition of the counter, you might want to use a non-abrasive sponge to remove sticky food of the countertop. Please be gentle in applying pressure to the countertop. Make sure that you also clean the edge of the countertop. It just doesn't feel good to pass your hand around the countertop and then pass it over the edge and bump your fingers onto sticky food.

Upper Cabinets

Cleaning and sanitation of the interior walls and shelves of the cabinets is fundamental to a healthy beginning in your new home. Make sure you are very thorough when cleaning the inside of the cabinets. For this you will need a towel with water and vinegar and a couple of sprays of Method Antibacterial Kitchen Cleaner. You will definitely need to apply more pressure when cleaning the lower part of the upper cabinets, which is what people most commonly use. Just apply a lot of pressure with your hand to remove the dirt off the cabinets. As you're finishing cleaning the inside of the cabinets, make sure you cover the inner part of the door, and then clean all the areas on the outside of the cabinet doors. For this part, the part where you will need to apply a lot of pressure is the area around the handle of the door. This is the area that comes in most contact in daily use. Also, as you're cleaning the outside of the door, make sure that you cover all the way to the top molding of the cabinet as well.



Lower Cabinets

Cleaning and sanitation of the lower part of the cabinets is the key to making sure that once you move in, you have a healthy germ-free environment if done properly. If you feel comfortable sitting on your ankles, please do so. Otherwise you can use a small bench to sit on it. Make sure you reach all the interior walls and shelves of the lower cabinets. As you finish, cleaning all the inside, clean the interior of the door and then the exterior of the door. As with most places in your home, you need to apply more pressure to the areas around the handle of the door, the areas under the sink, the trash can cabinet area, and the area next to the dishwasher. Please for no reason use a sponge to get rid of dirt off your cabinets. Only use the pressure from your hands, otherwise you will end up with cabinets that are scratched all over. Once you finish cleaning all the lower cabinets, make sure you clean the area below the lower cabinet, that area that is a strip running across all the cabinets. It's like a baseboard running across the base of all the lower cabinets. For this part, you will need to get on your knees and wash this area by hand, which is an area that accumulates a lot of dirt.

Sink

The cleaning and sanitation of the sink should be done at the end of the project. Reason being is because most likely you will be either rinsing your towels, or filling up your buckets with water, and cleaning it before the end of the project will just not be effective. You will be washing the sink more than once. When the time comes and you are ready to wash the sink, make sure you use a sponge and Method Antibacterial Kitchen Cleaner. The use of the sponge should be limited to the sink itself. For the area of the spout and the lever, make sure you only use the towel and a lot of pressure from your hand. We also highly recommend using a brush or toothbrush to get into the seams around the edge of the sink and the countertop. We also highly recommend you use a brush to clean the area around the ring of the drain.



Baseboards

The cleaning and sanitation of the baseboards should be done prior to washing the floor. Washing all the baseboards properly ensures that you can have your kids safely enjoy the floor of your kitchen. For this part, you can use a towel with water and vinegar and apply Method Antibacterial Kitchen Cleaner. If you're having a hard time in a specific area that is very dirty, you can give a couple of sprays of Clorox to your towel. Please make sure and understand that the cleaning solutions must be sprayed onto the towels, never directly to the surface of the material being cleaned. I have seen this in several videos on YouTube incorrectly done. Never ever apply to the material, but it should be onto your towel. Just make sure you apply a lot of pressure to remove the scuff marks, if it's tough to take out, then use a non-abrasive sponge and gently apply pressure to the area of treatment.

Floor

The cleaning and sanitation of the floor should be done right after you finish washing the baseboards in the kitchen. For this you will use a scrubber and a towel. You will also need a bucket with water first to get the dirt off the floor. This is the time when you want to remove just the dirt off the floor. The second pass will have the cleaning solution. Now, as far as deciding the cleaning solution to use, please speak to your contractor in case you have a special rare type of stone. Otherwise, if you have wood floor in your kitchen, you can use Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner. If you have linoleum, stone, terrazzo, vinyl, sealed porous marble, laminate, and no-wax sealed tile (ceramic, Mexican Saltillo, quarry), then you can use Bona Stone, Tile, and Laminate Floor Cleaner. If the floor is in fair condition, then no need to use a scrubber for the floor. Simply use a lot of pressure onto the floor, and wash as many times as needed to get the dirt off the floor. Your water at the end of your last pass should be clear. Depending on the condition of your floor, you will need to pass it 3, 4, 5 times until you can get clear water. If your floor is in really bad shape, then you might want to consider using your scrubber to wash the linoleum, stone, terrazzo, vinyl, sealed porous marble, laminate, and no-wax sealed tile (ceramic, Mexican Saltillo, quarry) floor. Please make sure that your wood floor should not be scrubbed, otherwise you will end with scratches all over your floor.



B. BATHROOM CLEANING AND SANITATION:

Next on our list is the cleaning and sanitation of your Glorious Bathroom. Some of the most hidden germs and viruses are concentrated in the bathroom. Make sure that the person working in the bathroom has skin gloves, and that every area is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. If you follow the steps and take your time to do them all thoroughly, you run the risk of having a pleasant hot shower at the end of the cleaning day.



Shower

The cleaning and sanitation of your shower area is the key to your healthy move into your new home. Please speak to your contractor in case you have a special rare marble on your shower for the proper cleaner. If you have regular marble on your shower, then simply use a towel with Method Bathroom Cleaner. Simply apply plenty of pressure to the walls of the shower area. Then rinse with water. When cleaning the shower glass, also make sure you are as thorough as possible and apply as much pressure as needed to get all the dirt out. For this, Method Bathroom Cleaner has the technology necessary to remove soap scum off your walls and glass door. Now, if you have a standing shower, spray Method Bathroom Cleaner of the base floor of the standing shower area, and scrub all over the base. For the corners of the shower area, you can use a smaller brush to reach all the corners in the shower. If you have a tub instead of a standing shower, then take a look at the condition of the tub. If the tub is considerable good condition, then just use a towel with Method Bathroom Cleaner and apply pressure to sanitize the bathroom. Make sure you clean the entire tub very thoroughly, around the water spout, around the drain, all the walls of the tub, and the base of the tub. If the tub is in really bad shape, then you might want to consider using a non-abrasive sponge, and gently work around the area of the walls and the floor of the tub. For no reason, use the sponge to scrub the water spout, controls, or handles of the tub. For this part of the tub spout and water handles that usually come in chrome and nickel, simply use the pressure from your hands using a towel. Please, for no reason should you use a sponge to clean the tub spout or water handles.



Toilet

The cleaning and sanitation of your toilet must be taken with due care to ensure that you and your kids have a healthy move in transition. There are plenty of transmittable germs, viruses, and bacteria that need to be properly removed off the toilets prior to you moving in. We highly recommend that you get brand new toilet seats for your toilets, no matter how much you can clean and sanitize the toilet. Just make a stop at Home Depot and get a brand new toilet seat; it's around \$30 on average. Now, the cleaning and sanitation should be done with Method Antibacterial Toilet Bowl Cleaner and the use of a Toilet Scrubber for the interior part of the toilet. Always make sure that you are using protective gloves for this part of the exercise. Just sit on your ankles and start scrubbing all the germs off the toilet bowl. For the outer ring of the bowl and the toilet base, you can use a non-abrasive sponge to remove all the germs off and the dirt off. Make sure you apply Method Bathroom Cleaner to the towel you are using to clean the ring and the base of the toilet. Please concentrate on the bottom base of the toilet base specially because there's usually a concentration of urine. For the water tank area, you can simply use a towel with Method Bathroom Cleaner and apply pressure to remove all the germs and dirt off.

Counter and Sink

The cleaning and sanitation of your counter and sinks should be done very thoroughly to ensure that you can safely place all your personal hygienic items onto them. Know that if you properly clean your counters and sinks you will be able to place your toothbrush and all personal items with high confidence that they are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Please know that if you have a special type of rare marble stone, please consult your contractor for the right cleaning solution to use. If you have granite, or stone on your counters, then you can use Method Bathroom Cleaner, and just use a towel. No need to use any abrasive sponges, otherwise you will have scratched surfaces. For the sink area, please use a light touch of Clorox to thoroughly remove all the germs and dirt off the sink. For the water spout and handles, which are usually in chrome or nickel, simply use the towel with Method Bathroom Cleaner. Please avoid using any type of abrasive sponges.



TRANSFORM YOUR HOME FROM FILTHY TO SPARKLING BRAND NEW IN 24 HOURS

Vanity Light

The cleaning of the vanity lights should be done with the light turned off for at least 30 minutes. Please make sure you test if the lights are hot before starting to clean them. We highly recommend using a flannel to remove all the dust off the light covers and the light bulbs. Please consult your manual for further instructions on how to properly remove the light bulbs and vanity light parts.

Mirrors

The cleaning and sanitation of your mirrors should be done with a towel with water and vinegar. After you finish cleaning the mirror, you can now use your blue towel to add Method Glass Cleaner and make the mirrors shine.



Vanity Cabinets

The cleaning and sanitation of your Vanity Cabinets must be done with a towel with water and vinegar and just apply a couple of sprays of Method Multi Purpose Cleaner to your towel. Start working inside all the cabinet walls, shelves, and bottom part of the cabinet. After you finish cleaning the inner part of the cabinet, you can clean the interior of the door, and then the exterior of the door. Put more emphasis around the door handle, since it's the area with the most contact.

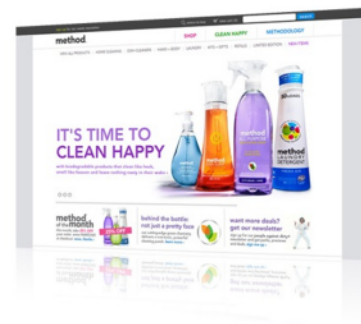
Floors

The cleaning and sanitation of your floors should be made with a towel, a scrubber, and a bucket with water. The first pass should be with water only, just to get the dirt off the floor first. The next pass should be done with Bona Stone Floor Cleaner if you have linoleum, stone, terrazzo, vinyl, sealed porous marble, laminate (such as Pergo), and no-wax sealed tile (ceramic, Mexican Saltillo, quarry). Just make sure you rinse the floor very well at the end. As for the number of times you need to wash the floor, it just depends on the water. If you see the water dirty after you've washed the floor, then just change the water and get new clear water until you can achieve clear water. This is the best indicator of when the floor is ready. For areas that are hard to remove the dirt off, apply a little touch of Clorox to your towel and start scrubbing the floor.



REFERENCE STORES

- MethodHome.com
For the complete line of Method Cleaning Supplies for online ordering and more information on the full line of organic cleaning supplies.
- **Bed Bath and Beyond:** For higher end tools and equipment.
- **Target:** For the complete line of Method Cleaning Supplies in case you want to buy it the same day.
- **Electrolux Aerus Local Store:** for Electrolux Canister Vacuum and all its accessories.
- **Home Depot:** For all the tools and equipment, protective masks, gloves.
- **Lowes:** they also carry the full line of Method Organic Cleaning Supplies.
- **Pathmark:** For energy drinks, protein bars, water, and snacks.



Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), and Environmental Health

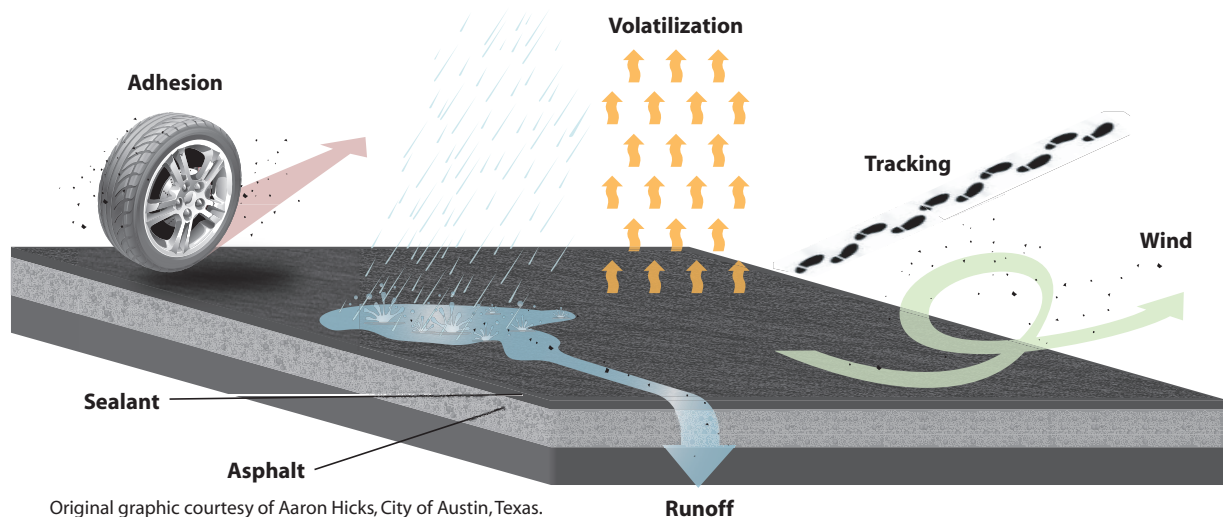
Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have identified coal-tar-based sealcoat—the black, viscous liquid sprayed or painted on asphalt pavement such as parking lots—as a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban areas for large parts of the Nation. Several PAHs are suspected human carcinogens and are toxic to aquatic life.



Sealcoat is the black, viscous liquid sprayed or painted on the asphalt pavement of many parking lots, driveways, and playgrounds.

Key Findings

- Dust from pavement with coal-tar-based sealcoat has greatly elevated PAH concentrations compared to dust from unsealed pavement.
- Coal-tar-based sealcoat is the largest source of PAH contamination to 40 urban lakes studied, accounting for one-half of all PAH inputs.
- Coal-tar-based sealcoat use is the primary cause of upward trends in PAHs, since the 1960s, in urban lake sediment.
- Residences adjacent to parking lots with coal-tar-based sealcoat have PAH concentrations in house dust that are 25 times higher than those in house dust in residences adjacent to parking lots without coal-tar-based sealcoat.
- PAHs move from a sealcoated surface into our environment by many mechanisms: storm runoff, adhesion to tires, wind, foot traffic, and volatilization.



Original graphic courtesy of Aaron Hicks, City of Austin, Texas.

What are Sealcoat, PAHs, and Coal Tar?

Pavement sealcoat (also called sealant) is a black liquid that is sprayed or painted on some asphalt pavement. It is marketed as protecting and beautifying the underlying pavement, and is used commercially and by homeowners across the Nation. It is applied to parking lots associated with commercial businesses, apartment and condominium complexes, churches, schools, and business parks, to residential driveways, and even to some playgrounds. Most sealcoat products have a coal-tar-pitch or asphalt (oil) base. Coal-tar-based sealcoat is commonly used in the central, southern, and eastern United States, and asphalt-based sealcoat is commonly used in the western United States.

PAHs are a group of chemical compounds that form whenever anything with a carbon base is burned, from wood and gasoline to cigarettes and meat. PAHs also are in objects and materials, such as automobile tires and coal tar, the production of which involves the heating of carbon-based materials. PAHs are of environmental concern because several are toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, and/or teratogenic (causing birth defects) to aquatic life, and seven are probable human carcinogens (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2009).

Coal tar is a byproduct of the coking of coal for the steel industry and coal-tar pitch is the residue remaining after the distillation of coal tar. Coal-tar pitch is 50 percent or more PAHs by weight and is known to cause cancer in humans (International Agency for Research on Cancer, 1980). Coal-tar-based sealcoat products typically are 20 to 35 percent coal-tar pitch. Product analyses indicate that coal-tar-based sealcoat products contain about 1,000 times more PAHs than sealcoat products with an asphalt base (City of Austin, 2005).

How does Sealcoat get from Driveways and Parking Lots into Streams and Lakes, Homes, and the Air?

Friction from vehicle tires abrades pavement sealcoat into small particles. These particles are washed off pavement by rain and carried down storm drains and into streams. Other sealcoat particles adhere to vehicle tires and are transported to other surfaces, blown offsite by wind, or tracked indoors on the soles of shoes. Some of the PAHs in sealcoat volatilize (evaporate), which is why sealed parking lots and driveways frequently give off a “mothball” smell. Sealcoat wear is visible in high traffic areas within a few months after application, and sealcoat manufacturers recommend reapplication every 2 to 4 years.



Runoff from sealcoated pavement (black surface) enters storm drains that lead to local streams. Drain grate (inset) is marked “DUMP NO WASTE” and “DRAINS TO WATERWAYS.”

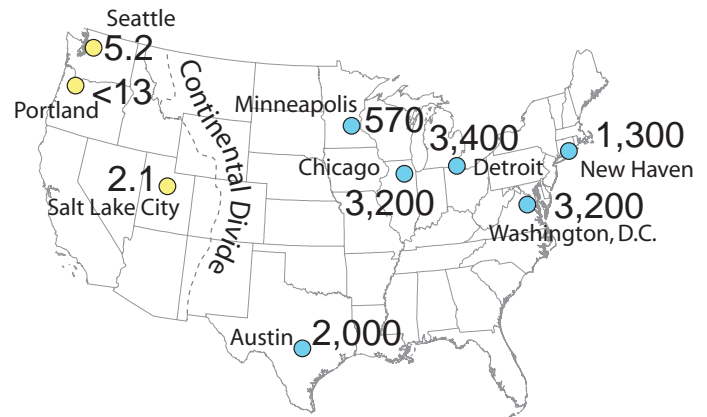


Gray asphalt pavement shows through where sealcoat has worn off the driveway of an apartment complex.

The East-West Divide

Regional Product Use Translates to Large Differences in PAH Concentrations

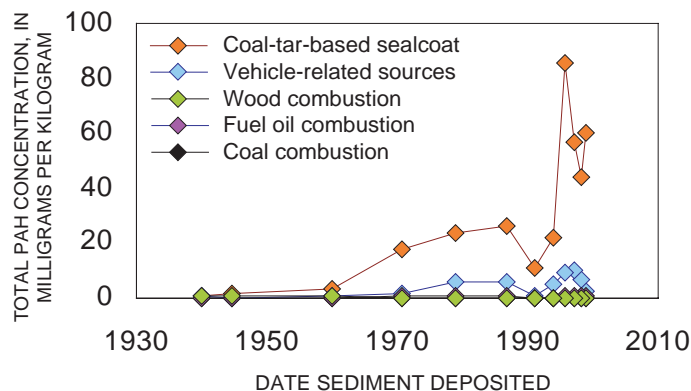
Does product type really matter? PAH concentrations in the coal-tar-based sealcoat product are about 1,000 times higher than in the asphalt-based product (more than 50,000 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg] in coal-tar-based products and 50 mg/kg in asphalt-based products [City of Austin, 2005]). Anecdotal reports, such as Web sites, blogs, and comments by industry representatives, indicate that the coal-tar-based product is used predominantly east of the Continental Divide and the asphalt-based product is used predominantly west of the Continental Divide. During 2007–08, the USGS swept dust from sealcoated and unsealcoated parking lots in nine cities across the United States and analyzed the dust for PAHs. For six cities in the central and eastern United States, the median PAH concentration in dust from sealcoated parking lots was 2,200 mg/kg, about 1,000 times higher than in dust from sealcoated parking lots in the western United States, where the median concentration was 2.1 mg/kg. Although both product types are available nationally, these results confirm the regional difference in use patterns (Van Metre and others, 2009).



Concentrations of PAHs in dust swept from sealed parking lots in central and eastern U.S. cities, where coal-tar-based-sealcoat use dominates, were about 1,000 times higher than in western U.S. cities, where asphalt-based-sealcoat use dominates. Concentrations shown on the map are the sum of 12 PAHs, in milligrams per kilogram (Van Metre and others, 2009).



“Fingerprinting” Shows that Coal-Tar Sealant is the Largest Source of PAHs to Urban Lakes



Coal-tar-based sealcoat (orange symbol) is the largest contributor to increasing concentrations of PAHs in Lake Killarney, Orlando, Florida, as determined by chemical fingerprinting. Similar patterns were seen in lakes across the central and eastern United States (Van Metre and Mahler, 2010).

PAHs are increasing in urban lakes across the United States. To better understand why this might be happening, USGS scientists collected sediment cores from 40 lakes in cities from Anchorage, Alaska, to Orlando, Florida, analyzed the cores for PAHs, and determined the contribution of PAHs from many different sources by using a chemical mass-balance model. The model is based on differences in the chemical “fingerprint” of PAHs from each source. Coal-tar-based sealcoat accounted for one-half of all PAHs in the lakes, on average, while vehicle-related sources accounted for about one-fourth. Lakes with a large contribution of PAHs from sealcoat tended to have high PAH concentrations; in many cases, at levels that can be harmful to aquatic life. Analysis of historical trends in PAH sources to 8 of the 40 lakes indicates that sealcoat use is the primary cause of increases in PAH concentrations since the 1960s. Identifying where PAHs are coming from is essential for developing environmental management strategies (Van Metre and Mahler, 2010).

From Outside to Inside

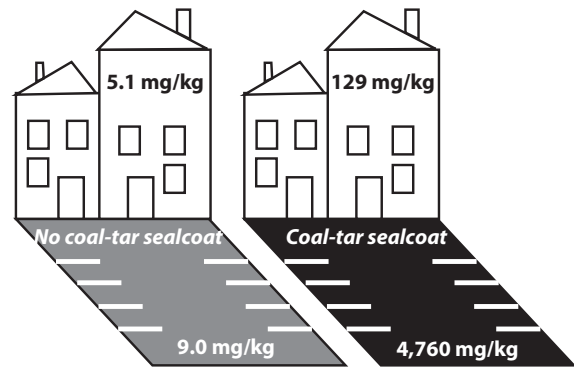
Coal-Tar Pavement Sealant Linked to PAHs in House Dust

House dust is an important source for human exposure to many contaminants, including PAHs. This is particularly true for small children, who spend time on the floor and put their hands and objects into their mouths. In 2008, the USGS measured PAHs in house dust from 23 ground-floor apartments and in dust from the apartment parking lots. Apartments with parking lots with coal-tar-based sealcoat had PAH concentrations in house dust that were 25 times higher, on average, than concentrations in house dust from apartments with parking lots with other surface types (concrete, unsealed asphalt, and asphalt-based sealcoat). PAH concentrations in the dust from the parking lots with coal-tar-based sealcoat were 530 times higher, on average, than concentrations on the parking lots with other surface types.



Photograph obtained from Jupiter Images.

What about other sources of PAHs? Although tobacco smoking, candle and incense burning, and barbecue and fireplace use have been suggested to affect PAH concentrations in house dust, this study found no relation between any of these, or the many other factors considered, and PAH concentrations in the house dust. The presence or absence of coal-tar-based sealcoat on the apartment complex parking lot was strongly correlated with PAH concentrations in house dust; the only other variable that was related to PAH concentrations in house dust was urban land-use intensity (the percentage of land near the apartment dedicated to multifamily residential, commercial, office, warehouse, or streets) (Mahler and others, 2010).



Apartments with coal-tar-based sealcoat on the parking lot had much higher concentrations of PAHs, both in indoor dust and in parking lot dust, than apartments with an unsealed asphalt or concrete parking lot or with a parking lot with asphalt-based sealcoat. Concentrations shown are for the sum of the 16 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency priority pollutant PAHs (Mahler and others, 2010), in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg).

There are no U.S. health-based guidelines for chronic exposure to PAHs in house dust. The only existing guideline is for a single PAH—benzo[*a*]pyrene—issued by the German Federal Environment Agency Indoor Air Hygiene Commission (Hansen and Volland, 1998). The guideline advises minimizing exposure to concentrations of benzo[*a*]pyrene greater than 10 mg/kg in dust to avoid adverse health effects. That guideline was exceeded for 4 of the 11 apartments with coal-tar-sealcoated parking lots and for 1 of the 12 apartments with a parking lot with a different surface type. Also of concern is exposure to the sealcoated pavement surfaces themselves through play activities. Dust on some of the sealcoated parking lots had a concentration of benzo[*a*]pyrene that was more than 50 times higher than the German guideline.



Photograph courtesy of CLEARCorps, Durham, North Carolina.

Our Environment and Us

What are the Concerns?

Some PAHs are toxic to mammals (including humans), birds, fish, amphibians (such as frogs and salamanders), and plants. The aquatic invertebrates—insects and other small creatures that live in streams and lakes—are particularly susceptible to PAH contamination, especially those that live in the mud where PAHs tend to accumulate. These invertebrates are an important part of the food chain and are often monitored as indicators of stream quality (analogous to the “canary in the coal mine” concept). Possible adverse effects of PAHs on aquatic invertebrates include inhibited reproduction, delayed emergence, sediment avoidance, and mortality. Possible adverse effects on fish include fin erosion, liver abnormalities, cataracts, and immune system impairments. The Probable Effect Concentration (PEC) of 22.8 mg/kg of total PAHs (MacDonald and others, 2000)—a widely used sediment quality guideline that is the concentration in bed sediment expected to have harmful effects on bottom-dwelling biota—is exceeded in one-third of the central and eastern U.S. urban lakes where PAH sources were studied.



When turned over, red spotted newts that had been exposed to sediment contaminated with coal-tar-based sealcoat had difficulty righting themselves (Bommarito and others, 2010b). Poor reflexes could result in decreased survival. Photograph by Megan Gibbons, Birmingham-Southern College.

Scientific studies have shown a relation between coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat and harmful effects on aquatic life.

- Aquatic communities downstream from storm-water runoff from sealcoated parking lots were impaired (Scoggins and others, 2007).
- Salamanders and newts exposed to sediment contaminated with coal-tar-based sealcoat had stunted growth, difficulty swimming or righting themselves, and liver problems (Bommarito and others, 2010a, b).
- Frogs exposed to sediment contaminated with coal-tar-based sealcoat died, had stunted growth, or developed more slowly than usual (Bryer and others, 2006).



Tumors in brown bullhead catfish from the Anacostia River, Washington, D.C., are believed to be related to elevated PAH concentrations (Pinkney and others, 2009). Photograph by A.E. Pinkney.

Human health risk from environmental contaminants usually is evaluated in terms of exposure pathways. For example, people could potentially be exposed to PAHs in sealcoat through ingestion of abraded particles from driveways, parking lots, or play grounds, or through skin contact with the abraded particles, either directly or by touching toys or other objects that have been in contact with the pavement. Inhalation of wind-blown particles and of fumes that volatilize from sealed parking lots are other possible pathways. PAHs in streams and lakes rarely pose a human health risk from contact recreation or drinking water because of their tendency to attach to sediment rather than to dissolve in water.



Skin contact is one way humans can be exposed to PAHs. Parking lots and driveways with coal-tar-based sealcoat have concentrations of PAHs hundreds to thousands of times higher than those with asphalt-based sealcoat or no sealcoat. Photograph obtained from Corbis Images, Inc.

FAQ

Q) *What is coal tar?*

A) Coal tar is a thick, black or brown liquid that is a byproduct of the carbonization of coal for the steel industry or the gasification of coal to make coal gas.

Q) *What is the difference between crude coal tar, coal-tar pitch, and “refined” coal tar?*

A) Coal-tar pitch is the residue that remains after various light oils are distilled from crude coal tar for commercial use. The coal-tar pitch is then separated (refined) into 12 different viscosities, RT-1 (the most fluid) through RT-12 (the most viscous). RT-12 is the viscosity used in coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat.

Q) *How can I tell if a product contains coal tar?*

A) To determine if the product has a coal-tar base, look for the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number 65996-93-2 on the product Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The words “coal tar,” “refined coal tar,” “refined tar,” “refined coal-tar pitch,” or other similar terms may be listed on the MSDS or on the product container.

Q) *Is sealcoat used on roads?*

A) Use on roads is extremely rare. Occasionally a private property, such as a housing development, will choose to have the roads sealcoated.

Q) *Is use of coal-tar-based sealant regulated?*

A) Several jurisdictions, including the City of Austin, Texas, the City of Washington, D.C., Dane County, Wisconsin, and several suburbs of Minneapolis, Minnesota, have banned use of coal-tar-based sealcoat. Similar bans are under consideration in other jurisdictions.

For more information on USGS research on PAHs and coal-tar-based sealcoat go to <http://tx.usgs.gov/coring/allthingssealcoat.html>.

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—B.J. Mahler and P.C. Van Metre

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