

# P&T Products

Manufacturer of Hot Pour Crack & Joint Sealants

## Crack Sealing in the Sizzling Summer Heat

**Challenge:** Coal tar sealer softens hot pour crack sealant

Coal tar has 7-8% volatiles that are solvents for asphalt and asphalt-based products such as hot pour crack sealant. Under most circumstances, problems do not occur. However, in sizzling summer conditions, sealer dries quickly trapping volatiles and compromising asphalt. This is due to the chemistry of coal tar and asphalt. The phenomenon will occur using any manufacturer's coal tar sealer or any manufacturer's hot pour crack sealant.

**Solution:** Take time between applications

During extremely hot temperatures, apply sealcoat and return a few days later to apply crack sealant. At this point, the volatile coal tar components will have evaporated and will not soften asphalt-based crack sealants.

And remember when it is hot outside, pavement (especially freshly sealed pavement) is hotter. On a 90°F day it is not uncommon for pavement temperatures to reach 140°F. The crack sealant will be pliable; therefore, a finger, shoe or tire impression is not cause for concern.

**Tip:** Control amount applied

I am a proponent of using a shoe or squeegee to minimize the amount of crack sealant on the pavement surface, especially in parking lot applications. Excess sealant is an extra expense, not visually appealing and can provide more surface area for traffic to encounter and potentially pick up.



**Example: Over-Applied Sealant**