



City of Philadelphia  
Department of Public Health, Air Management Services

Dust Control Guidance for All Construction, Renovation and Demolition Activities in Philadelphia

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**A. What is the Dust Control Guidance for All Construction, Renovation and Demolition Activities?**

The Dust Control Guidance for All Construction, Renovation and Demolition Activities in Philadelphia recommends work practices that try to reduce, or minimize dust from construction, renovation, and demolition operations (e.g. sawing, grinding, paint stripping, demolition etc.). Breathing dust from such work, can cause or worsen a wide variety of health problems including asthma and certain lung cancers.

**B. What kinds of activities are covered by the Dust Control Guidance?**

- Construction sites where demolition or construction debris are being stored, stockpiled, removed or transported.
- Abrasive blasting, sandblasting, chemical washing of exterior walls and other surfaces.
- Cutting, sawing, and grinding of masonry, brick, and concrete materials
- Removal or remediation of lead paint on exterior walls and other surfaces.

**C. What kind of work practices are recommended by the Dust Control Guidance?**

- Giving notice in writing to residents / occupants of properties < 400 feet from the construction / demolition site that dust producing activities are taking place.
- Posting of warning signs on construction / demolition site perimeter or fence line.
- Use of water during cutting, sawing, demolition, and / or sand blasting to keep dust down.
- Use of vacuum or suction systems to capture dust kicked up by power tools.
- Covering of trucks, dumpsters / containers hauling debris away from construction sites.
- Wet sweep and / or vacuum work site, and streets/sidewalks just outside the work site.

**D. What type of information is recommended for written notice / signs?**

The written notice and project signs should include:

- A description of the work, and any efforts that will be used to minimize dust.
- Contact information for the property owner and contractor doing the work
- The estimated times / dates the work will happen
- Any recommended actions that will reduce dust exposure (e.g. keeping windows closed, washing of hands, etc.)

**E. Are there any other rules or requirements that apply to construction, renovation, and demolition activities?**

**The work practices in the Dust Control Guidance for All Construction, Renovation and Demolition Activities in Philadelphia are voluntary.** General work practice, licensing, and permitting requirements for construction, demolition, and renovation activities are enforced by The City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I). Please contact L&I's (Website: <http://www.phila.gov/li/Pages/default.aspx>) for more information. Other applicable requirements include, but are not limited to:

- **Federal and State requirements for certain renovation repair, and painting projects that will disturb lead paint in certain homes, child care facilities, and pre-schools.** Please see the following websites for more information:

<http://www2.epa.gov/lead/renovation-repair-and-painting-program>  
<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=553491&mode=2>

- **Federal and City requirements for removal of asbestos-containing materials.** Please contact the AMS Asbestos Control Unit (Phone: 215-685-7576, Website: <http://www.phila.gov/health/airmanagement/AsbestosControl.html>) for more information.
- **City requirements for disposal of waste water from construction / demolition projects.** Please contact the City of Philadelphia Water Department (Phone: 215-685-6300; Website: <http://www.phila.gov/water/Pages/default.aspx>) for more information.
- **State requirements for the disposal and management of waste from construction / demolition sites.** Please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, South East Regional Office (Phone: 484-250-5960; Website: [http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/waste\\_management/14069](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/waste_management/14069)) for more information.

**Where can I get a copy of the Dust Control Guidance for All Construction, Renovation and Demolition Activities in Philadelphia?**

A copy of the Dust Control Guidance, and sample Notice can be found online at: <http://www.phila.gov/health/AirManagement/AirCodes.html> or by calling 215-685-7572.

For further information please contact:

Source Registration  
Air Management Services (AMS)  
321 University Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4543  
Phone: 215-685-7572

For all concerns and complaints regarding dust, call 215-685-7580.