



**City of Philadelphia  
Department of Public Health  
Air Management Services**

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**Construction / Demolition / Earthworks Dust Control Requirements  
(Air Management Regulation (AMR) II. Section IX.) FAQ  
(Effective February 5, 2019)**

**COMPLETE TEXT OF EXISTING REGULATION AVAILABLE AT:**

<https://www.phila.gov/documents/dust-control-forms-and-regulations/>

- **Notify occupants of nearby properties, in writing, ten (10) days before engaging in earthworks (excavation, land clearing, or other activity that will disturb more than 5,000 sq ft land area), construction, and demolition activities. (AMR II. § IX.A.)**
  - For earthworks, or construction / demolition involving structure > 2 stories in height – written notification to must be distributed to the occupants of the three (3) nearest properties on either side of the worksite, the seven (7) nearest properties across the street from the worksite, and the seven (7) nearest properties to the rear of the worksite.
  - For construction / demolition involving structure < 2 stories in height – written notification to properties adjacent to worksite.
  - A Dust Control Notification Form template can be found at:  
<https://www.phila.gov/documents/dust-control-forms-and-regulations/>

Note: Exemptions and exceptions from the notification requirement have been included for certain smaller projects, projects necessary to correct Imminently Dangerous conditions as deemed by City Department of Licenses and Inspections, and other construction / demolition activities that will occur in completely enclosed spaces.

- **Dust control permitting requirement for complete demolitions of major buildings (i.e. Structure that is > 3 stories, > 40 feet tall, or 10,000 square feet), all earthworks, and / or all demolitions completed via implosion (AMR II. § IX.B.)**
  - For these kinds of projects, the owner / demolition contractor on a project will be required to submit a permit application to AMS that outlines when the demolition or earthworks activity will take place, and how the demolition / earthworks activities will be performed in compliance with specified work practices to reduce the generation of dust.
  - Applicants only need a single Dust Control Permit, for projects that will involve demolition activities and earthworks activities, that individually, would trigger the permitting requirement. Applicants must indicate these activities in the permit application.
  - The Dust Control Permit Application can be found at:  
<https://www.phila.gov/documents/dust-control-forms-and-regulations/>



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• **Construction and Demolition Work Practices to Reduce / Minimize Dust (AMR II. § IX.C.)**

- Fugitive dust from construction, demolition, and earthworks activities may not be visible at the point it passes the worksite property line.
- Use of vacuum or similar suction systems to capture dust kicked up by power tools when grinding / cutting.
- Application of water or approved dust suppressant to a worksite with ongoing excavation, land clearing, demolition, or other earth disturbance related activities to suppress dust formation.
- General prohibition against dry abrasive blasting of exterior surfaces open to the outside air when temperature is above freezing.
- Covering and wetting of stockpiled earth, sand, gravel, and other similar construction materials.
- Use of a material chute when dropping material or debris more than 20 ft outside of the exterior walls of a building or structure. Materials must be wetted when dropped, and / or exit of chute must be sealed against the top of the receiving container / dumpster.
- All temporary perimeter fencing around must have dust control fabric; must measure a minimum of 5 ft in height from the bottom of the fencing.
- A 10 miles per hour speed limit for all equipment and trucks traveling within the worksite.
- Wetting and sweeping of roadways / access roads in a worksite to prevent dust formation.
- Vehicle access points must be equipped with dust suppression measures (i.e. wheel wash systems, rumble grates, and/or gravel pads)

**NOTE:** Required work practices apply for all construction / demolition / excavation / land clearing activities **(even if no dust control permit or public notification is required)**.

**Can't follow / perform these work practices?** – Request permission from AMS for use of alternative method (AMR II. § IX.E.) To request an alternative method, use the form found at: <https://www.phila.gov/documents/dust-control-forms-and-regulations/>

- **Implosion / Blasting Demolition Specific Work Practices (AMR II. § IX.D.)** Air sampling, wipe sampling, and cleanup requirements

**QUESTIONS ABOUT NEW DUST CONTROL REQUIREMENTS?**

- 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, or "311"**.