

Best Practices on How to Contain and Control Dust During an Interior Remodeling Project

Attitude – Bring the right attitude to the job. You can control job site dust – it does not have to be a problem for you or your client.

Set Expectations – Dust is the one constant during a remodeling project. Educate the homeowner about each of the actions that are being taken to control dust; set the expectation that there will be some dust.

Careful Job Planning – Plan ahead on how you are going to manage job site dust, budget the cost, add it your proposal, communicate the plan, & execute.

Isolate the Work Area – Close doors, create temporary walls, designate a main entryway to the work area, and use poly sheeting to isolate the work area and minimize the migration of remodeling nuisance dust.

Seal Vents and the Heating/Cooling System – Ductwork for furnaces or central air systems are main pathways for remodeling nuisance dust. No matter if the heating or cooling system is running or not, registers and air returns in the work area have to be closed and sealed. This action will keep the ductwork, furnace, and cooling system free from dust and will help to minimize the spread of dust. During, and after construction, heating/cooling system air filters should be changed.

Remove or Cover Homeowner's Property – When possible remove all property out of the workspace; if not possible cover the property with drop cloths or poly sheeting.

Protect Walls and Flooring - Use runners, fiber board, rosin paper or other surface protection materials to protect walls and floors from dust or damage.

Control Building Airflow - Practice a closed door and window policy to contain dust to the work area. Work to establish a negative air pressure environment, maintain good ventilation, circulate clean outdoor air in during and right after the work is completed.

Capture Air Bourne Dust – Incorporate the use of HEPA air scrubbers or negative air machines during the construction process. When using an air scrubber, replace the pre-filter often to protect and extend the life of the HEPA filter.

Vacuum Don't Sweep – Sweeping construction debris lifts dust into the air; vacuum this material. Vacuums should use either a HEPA or fine particulate filter. If sweeping, use a dust control sweeping compound.

Collect Dust at the Point of Generation - If possible, try to control and collect dust at the source of generation with vacuum equipped tools. Misting before or during cutting also helps control airborne dust. [e.g. cutting concrete]

Cut Material Outside - Always cut wood, drywall, plastic, metal, and all other materials, that you may use in your remodeling project, outside and away from your client's home.

Clean As You Go – Clean up major messes as they are created. Waiting to clean up until after you are done allows dust to migrate through the air to areas away from your work site and to be tracked through the home on the soles shoes. Also, avoid moving debris through the “clean” areas of the home.

Use Low Dust Construction Materials – When possible use new low dust drywall compound and other low-dust construction materials.

Personal Health - Use proper personal protective equipment; protect your mouth, eyes, nose, ears, hands and feet.

Dusting – Don't dry dust, this practice relocates as much dust as you collect. A more effective way to collect dust from furniture and other wood surfaces is to use microfiber dust collectors, damp soft rags, and furniture cleaners.

Control Odors and “Off-Gassing” - Ventilate the work space before, during, and after paints or finishes have been applied, flooring finished, carpets installed, or any other activity likely to off-gas pollutants.

EPA RRP Rule (40 CFR 745) – Follow EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting guidelines if you believe that you might be producing dust containing lead paint.

Other Regulations – Learn and follow other national, state, and local laws, rules and regulations regarding managing dust and debris on residential remodeling projects.

***To learn more on how to dramatically remove and control job site dust visit
www.buildclean.com or call (855) 595-2860***