HAYWARD™ SCORE
SO YOU CAN FEEL BETTER

CONSTRUCTION DUST PROTOCOL

Healthy homes minimize dust.

Whether it is an addition to an existing home, kitchen remodels, or completely new build – home construction creates a lot of dust. That "dust" is comprised of visible and microscopic pieces of most of the building materials that go into your home, many of which are laden with chemicals. It also includes mold, bacteria, outdoor dirt, and other allergens and irritants than can be introduced during construction or existing and now become airborne.

Exposure to construction dust can have health impacts both during and after construction. Secondarily, dust provides nutrition to micro-organisms when sufficient moisture is present that can lead to long-term issues with mold and corresponding health consequences.

To minimize dust most effectively follow the Hayward Healthy Home Dust Protocol:

I. Minimize dust creation during construction
II. Remove or isolate dust after construction and before soft goods are installed
III. Verify cleanliness

I. Minimize dust creation during construction

1. **PREVENT** - Seal the areas where dust and debris can enter heating and cooling ducts, ventilation ducts or other mechanical openings.
2. **REDUCE** - The most effective way to reduce the amount of dust we breathe inside houses is to not create dust. During remodeling and construction, this means not sawing, cutting, or sanding wood and sheetrock inside the house.
3. **CLEAN BEFORE ENCLOSING** - Because there are exceptions and "debris happens" it's especially important to HEPA vacuum the areas that are not able to be cleaned later, like wall stud cavities and ceiling and floor joist bays before they are enclosed with sheetrock or other material.

II. Remove or isolate dust after construction is completed

The following steps are usually sufficient especially if the surface will be painted. Pay special attention to the tops of doors, inside all drawer cavities and cabinets, and pocket doors, which are hard to clean, but need to be addressed.

1. **DISLODGE** - Blow all surfaces with electric blowers to dislodge particles. Disturbing the surfaces with a leaf blower while running air scrubbers will improve the results and reduce re-entrainment and cross-contamination of dust from the dirty area back onto the cleaned surfaces. High air flow also helps to accelerate off-gassing of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) before occupancy.
2. **VACUUM** - Use HEPA vacuums on all surfaces including floors, walls, ceiling, tops of cabinetry, beams, and other hard to reach spaces.

3. **WIPE** – Wipe down all surfaces using a damp cloth. We recommend using microfiber or electrostatic cloth or non-chlorinated cleaning rags.
4. **VACUUM** - Use HEPA vacuums on all surfaces listed in step 2 again.

III. Verify cleanliness

Follow the steps below in order to confirm that all possible dust has been removed:

1. **MAKE VISIBLE** – Use of "white glove" and "black glove" processes to wipe the surfaces will make fine layers of dust visible.
2. **USE LIGHT** - Shining a light along the surface (rather than directly at the surface) will emphasize the presence of any particles.
3. **MEASURE** - Hold a submicron counter near surfaces as they are wiped or blown. The counter will show an increase in particle count if there is any dust remaining.

If there is dust still present repeat the cleaning procedure and the verification process until the required conditions have been met.

If you have questions contact,
Joe Medosch
229-539-9172
jmedosch@haywardscore.com

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