



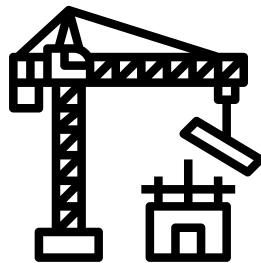
# Fugitive Dust in Detroit

*Are you concerned about dust in your neighborhood? Do you regularly see dust storms from local trucks or industry? How does it affect your health? What can you do about it?*

## What is Fugitive Dust? Where does it come from?

Fugitive dust is very small bits of dust, also known as particulate matter. These particles "escape" from various sources:

- Trucks
- Scrapyards
- Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Construction
- Mining



*In Detroit, there are many sources of fugitive dust: scrapyards operations, transport of materials, and dust not captured by facilities.*

### ***Isn't there technology to prevent industrial fugitive dust?***

At many factories, air pollutants go through a filter in a 'stack,' such as a chimney or vent. The stack captures many harmful chemicals before releasing gases and particles high up. But, fugitive dust blows into surrounding areas at ground level and without being filtered.

## How Can Fugitive Dust Affect Our Health?

**Fugitive dust can harm your lungs.** It can make asthma and other lung diseases worse.

**Fugitive dust from scrapyards** can harm other parts of the body too because it **can contain toxic heavy metals**, such as:

- Lead - toxic to the brain & nervous system
- Cadmium - damages lungs, builds up in kidneys, causes cancer
- Chromium - irritates lungs, may cause lung, nose, or sinus cancer



**Children are more likely to be harmed by fugitive dust.** This is because:

- They breathe more rapidly than adults & absorb more pollutants,
- Their brains and bodies are still developing, and
- They live & play closer to the ground where there are more pollutants.

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## ***Are there laws to protect people from industrial fugitive dust?***

Metal emissions from scrapyards (metal recyclers) are not required to be controlled or measured. The City of Detroit requires:

- 150 ft distance from residential areas
- Must have brick walls 8 - 12 ft high
- 1 tree per 30 ft of fence line
- All activities are within walled area
- No piles higher than the exterior wall
- No open burning
- Outdoor cutting or shredding needs to be 500 ft from residential area
- Driveways, roads, parking lots, loading areas must be paved

**An update to Detroit's Fugitive Dust ordinance has been proposed.**

*See piles of dirt or other material higher than the outside wall at an industrial site?*

## **TAKE ACTION**

### **Call if piles are higher than the Wall!**

#### **Report Piles or Fugitive Dust to:**

##### **The State of Michigan**

- 24 hr Pollution Emergency Alert System (**PEAS**): **1-800-292-4706**
- Include description of size & height of piles

##### **City of Detroit**

- **BSEED** (Buildings, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department) Crystal Rogers:
  - (313) 471-5115
- Report fugitive dust on city streets via **Improve Detroit app**:
  - <https://detroitmi.gov/ImproveDetroit>
- Contact your **city council member**:
  - (313) 224-3443

##### **Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority**

- 1-844-322-1773



## **Who We Are**

This work is funded by a grant from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Our team includes:

- Staff from the **Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition**,
- Staff from the **Ecology Center**, and
- Student and faculty researchers from the **University of Michigan's Ann Arbor and Dearborn's campuses**.

Questions? Contact Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition

**SWDetroitCBC@gmail.com ~ 313-717-8223**