

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (373)

Dust control on unpaved roads and surfaces controls direct particulate matter (PM) emissions produced by vehicle and machinery traffic or wind action on unpaved roads and other surfaces that can result in a significant air quality issue in some areas.

Practice Information

The objective of this practice is to reduce or eliminate dust (direct PM) emissions from either the mechanical action of vehicles and machinery or from high winds on unpaved roadways or other surfaces. Control of dust generated by the activity of animals is handled under the Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces conservation practice (375).

Dust from roads can lead to visibility and safety issues along and near roadways. It can deposit on nearby vegetation, resulting in poor plant health. It also can deposit on water bodies or streams leading to increased sedimentation and reduced fish health.

There are a variety of dust suppressants (palliatives) that can be used to control dust. These include substances that require rather frequent reapplication (such as water), and those with relatively long control lifetimes (such as petroleum emulsions). Some suppressants contain chemicals that can have deleterious effects on nearby streams and water bodies from runoff from treated areas.



The benefits of this practice can be significant and immediate. Dust is reduced or eliminated, as well as the consequent impacts.

Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (373) is commonly applied with practices such as Critical Area Planting (342), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380), Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces (375), and Mulching (484).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.