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## Basic Knowledge and Facts about Domestic Dust

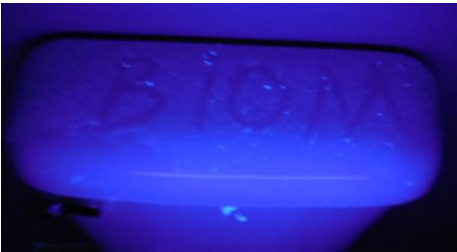
### What is Domestic Dust?

#### **Dust Invisible to the Necked Eye**



**Most people don't think about dust when they don't see it.** It's only when it starts to coat every countertop or every surface in your home. Many times I heard people are saying that their house is clean, but dusty only. **Can dusty house be clean?** When moisture laid on even invisible yet layer of dust it became an insoluble crud which can be removed only by washing it down with warm water and soap. **Where dust is from** in your home? What is domestic dust? Dust is the term that describes the wide variety of organic and inorganic particles that collect in our homes. **Dust is considered an environmental contaminant.**

#### **Actual Dust seeing under UV Light only**



Dust in homes can come from many different sources. Just living we generate dust. Every time we move we generate dust from our clothing, skin cells, dirt carried in from outside and dust that is driven air born from carpets, drapes, and furniture. Pets generate a lot of dust and dirt particles. The majority of domestic dust is made up from dead human shed skin cells which is the primary food for house dust mites. **House dust mites** are microscopic a class of eight joint-legged invertebrate animals. Because house mites are so heavy they are not

suspended for long in the air and they are on the floor or other surfaces until disturbed by walking, for example. It could take somewhere between **twenty minutes** and **two hours** for dust mites to **settle back down** out of the air.



Dust mites are a nesting species that **prefers a dark, warm, and humid climate.** Their faeces include enzymes that are released upon contact with a moist surface, which happen when a person inhales. These enzymes can kill cells within the human body. The average life cycle for a male house dust mite is 10 to 19 days. A mated female house dust mite can last up to 70 days, laying 60 to 100 eggs in the last 5 weeks of her life. In a 10-week life span, a house dust mite will produce approximately 2,000 fecal particles.

Another big **source of dust is duct leakage.** Any air that leaks out of ductwork when the fan is running must be made up by infiltration into the home. Most of this **air comes from the attic.** It also brings in a lot of humidity, deposits dirt and can cause mildew to grow. This air comes in through the leaks around trim, at electrical connections, and light fixtures. **These leaks** can cause a home to be **extremely dusty.** Home that insulated with Cellulose insulation tend to be much dustier than homes insulated with fiberglass insulation. The powder used in the blowing process for cellulose insulation drifts into the house for years.

Summary prepared by:

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