

Dust Control

Road dust can be controlled in a number of ways. Some controls require funding and others may be able to be put in place through local efforts. Communities should work with governmental agencies to develop controls that make sense locally.

DUST CONTROL		
CONTROL METHOD	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Water	Inexpensive, Effective, Generally available.	Dries out fast, needs frequent application. Over application makes road or trail muddy.
Chemical additives mixed with water such as salt.	Can help form a longer lasting seal over road or trail.	May be expensive to ship supplies. Some additives can be hazardous and runoff may not be environmentally friendly.
Chemicals such as oil added directly to the road or trail.	Likely more permanent. A good use for waste oil.	Runoff is hazardous to surrounding environment.
Speed limits and limits on mechanized travel.	Can be implemented locally with a resolution. Gets community involved in solving problem.	Difficult to enforce. No effect with wind.
Rerouting traffic away from groups like elder homes and schools.	Can be implemented locally with a resolution. Gets community involved in solving problem.	Depends on geography. May not be possible.
Paving.	More permanent than other methods. Good surface for driving.	Expensive. Requires great deal of effort. May not be effective in areas where unpaved roads or trails merge with paved roads.



Control Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Water	Inexpensive and generally available.	Dries out fast, needs frequent application. Excess application makes road or trail muddy.
Dust suppressants mixed with water such as salt.	Can help form a longer lasting seal over road or trail.	May be expensive to ship supplies. Application may require special equipment. May impact vegetation and water quality.
Speed limits and limits on mechanized travel.	Can be implemented locally with a resolution. Gets community involved in solving problem.	Difficult to enforce. No effect with wind.
Rerouting traffic away from groups like elder homes and schools.	Can be implemented locally with a resolution. Gets community involved in solving problem.	Depends on geography. May not be possible.
Paving.	More permanent than other methods. Good surface for driving.	Expensive. Requires a great deal of effort. May not be effective in areas where unpaved roads or trails merge with paved roads.