



## Duct Cleaning

No one knows whether the dust in your air ducts can cause adverse health effects or whether having them cleaned will improve your asthma symptoms. Until proper research can evaluate the benefits of duct cleaning, the Asthma Society of Canada does not endorse or approve of any duct cleaning companies.

### When is duct cleaning warranted?

Only when there is visible mould, excessive dirt, or in the case of an insect or rodent problem.

### What company should I hire?

If necessary, here are some tips for finding a duct cleaning company:

- Do not hire duct cleaners who recommend regular duct cleaning.
- Check references to be sure other customers are satisfied. Also check with Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed.
- Make sure the service provider complies with the National Air Duct Cleaning Association's standards.
- Get estimates from at least three companies.

### Should I use sealants or biocides?

Do not permit the use of sealants. Over time sealants will wear off and become airborne. There is little known about the safety of these particles. Also, do not permit the use of ozone as it is known to cause adverse health effects.

Biocidal products (e.g. bleach) are sometimes used to inhibit the growth of unwanted organisms, such as mould and bacteria. Biocides should only be used if there is visible mould in the duct work. Prior to agreeing to the use a biocide, it is recommended that you have a mould expert from a laboratory identify the substance. In addition, make sure to always review the precautions on the biocide label before deciding whether to use it. If you choose to use disinfectants or biocides, always ventilate the area and exhaust the air to the outdoors. In the future, make sure to resolve the moisture problems that facilitated the growth of the mould so that it does not return.

### What else do I need to know?

- Leave the home while the ducts are being cleaned.
- Never use steam cleaning in duct work as this increases the moisture in the system and may lead to mould growth.



**For More Information:**

Contact the Asthma Society of Canada at 1-866-787-4050 or visit [www.Asthma.ca](http://www.Asthma.ca).