

## What happens to the results?

The results of your dust samples and the information you provide are extremely valuable to the study. They will be considered highly confidential and will be treated with great care. We will not reveal your identity. The dust samples will be stripped of all information that might link them back to you or your property. We will only release summaries of the data; no individual or property address will ever be identified.

You may choose to receive a report on your individual results. We will only send you a report on the levels of dioxins in your house dust if you choose to receive it.

## Do I have to participate?

Participation is completely voluntary. However, once you are selected and agree to participate, we ask your help in completing the sample collection phase of the study. You will receive a payment of \$20 as a token of our appreciation for your participation in the dust sampling phase of the UMDES.

## Where can I get more information?

We will hold public meetings to discuss the findings of this study with the affected communities. Study findings will be available on the study's Web site: <http://www.umdioxin.org>. You may also call our toll-free number for more information: **1-888-689-0006**.

Thank you for your help in completing this important study!

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The University  
of Michigan

Dioxin  
Exposure  
Study

**DUST SAMPLING**



**The University of Michigan**

School of Public Health

College of Engineering

Center for Statistical Consultation  
and Research

Institute for Social Research

1-888-689-0006

UMDES Web site: <http://www.umdioxin.org>

## Why is household dust being sampled?

The University of Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study (UMDES) is designed to see if there is a relationship between levels of dioxins in soil and household dust and levels of dioxins in people's bodies. It will also examine other factors – where people have lived, what they eat, their jobs and their hobbies – that may be associated with the levels of dioxins in their bodies. In order to see that relationship, household dust from about 700 properties in five Michigan counties will be sampled and analyzed for dioxins.

## Isn't this just an issue for people in the Tittabawassee River flood plain?

The Tittabawassee River flood plain has been identified as an area with a high level of dioxins. But the issue is much broader. It could have far-reaching environmental and economic effects throughout the Saginaw Valley – and the state of Michigan.

It's also important to remember that a scientific study requires valid comparisons. The study includes people both inside and outside the flood plain – as well as from other areas in Michigan – to establish a point of reference.

## Who will sample the dust?

After you agree to have your house sampled for dust, a member of the UMDES team will call to make an appointment to take samples. The appointment will be made at your convenience. On your appointment date, two to three professionally trained members of the UMDES dust sampling team will arrive at your house. Each member of the team is required to wear a picture identification badge when making visits to homes. Our team members will be glad to comply with your request to check their badges. If you are at all uncertain about the identities of the sampling team members that contact you, please feel free to call our toll-free number at: 1-888-689-0006.

## What will the dust samplers do?

The team will take samples from easily accessible floor surfaces in your home. They may ask permission to temporarily move small furniture, such as a coffee table, to gain access to more floor space (see Figure 1).



Figure 1

The team will vacuum the floor in two locations:

- An often-used living or family room
- A nearby hallway

Before sampling, team members will measure out a sampling area on the floor and mark the area with masking tape (see Figure 2).

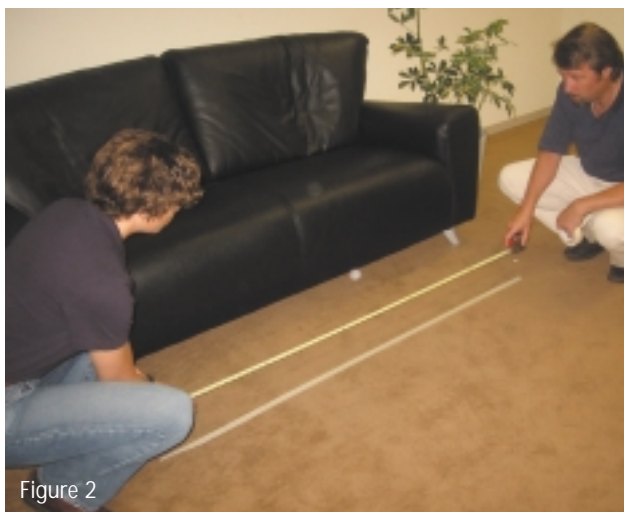


Figure 2

Then they will use a specially designed vacuum cleaner (see Figure 3) to collect dust from the marked area (see Figure 4). In some cases, the sampling team may need to sample a larger area in order to collect enough dust. If this happens, they will measure and mark new areas. These new areas will be in the same rooms where they originally took samples.



Figure 3



Figure 4

## Should I clean up the house before the sampling team arrives?

We ask that you not vacuum for one week prior to the day of your appointment. This allows the sampling team to collect enough dust for analysis.

## What will happen to the dust?

The dust will be collected in a glass jar and on a large filter. When the team is finished, the jar and filter will be packed into a cooler. They will be stored on ice until they are shipped to a certified lab for analysis.