



Installing and Maintaining Baghouses

One of Spokane's air pollution problems is suspended particulate matter (PM). Particulate matter is solid or liquid droplets from smoke, dust, and condensing vapors. These microscopic particles can be suspended and carried in the air for long periods of time and over long distances. When inhaled, particles travel deep into the lungs and remain there, possibly causing long-term harm.

Why are baghouses important to air quality?

Baghouses are used at many facilities to prevent particles, created by industrial processes, from entering the air. In concept, baghouses work like vacuum cleaners. Particles in an airstream are filtered out on the surfaces of bags housed inside the unit.

The Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) regulations limit the maximum particulate outflow and the visibility of emissions from industrial processes and agency staff conduct periodic inspections. It's important to make sure your baghouses are maintained and working

How Can Self-Inspections Help?

Problems with your baghouse can increase particulate emissions. Baghouses must be kept in good working condition to effectively collect particles. Inspecting baghouses on a regular schedule can help prevent problems, such as equipment malfunctions and increased emissions.

Here's a rule of thumb: if you can see visible emissions from your baghouse stack, your baghouse is probably not working properly.

Use the Self-Inspection Checklist on the back to help determine if your baghouse is operating at its maximum efficiency.

Posting this checklist, or one you've created yourself, will serve as a visual reminder to conduct regular inspections. Regular inspections will help you stay in compliance and will reduce unnecessary particulate emissions.

What if my baghouse breaks down?

Contact Spokane Clean Air immediately. A compliance inspector will review the rules related to equipment breakdowns.

(Self-Inspection Checklist on back)

Compliance Tip!

- X Inspect your baghouse often - see sample checklist form on back**
 - X Perform scheduled maintenance**
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Baghouse Air Quality Self-Inspection Checklist

Date/time of inspection:

ACTIVITY:	Yes	No	Corrective Action Taken
1. Ductwork: -Were ducts checked and free of any leaks?			
2. Temperature: -Was temperature checked and determined to be okay? (air too hot could damage bags; air too cool may indicate leaks or condensation in the bags)			
3. Damper Valves: -Are all isolation, bypass and cleaning valves checked and working properly?			
4. Manometer: -Is manometer adjusted (should read "zero" before equipment is on)? -Check and record pressure drop across bags -Is pressure drop okay? (too high may indicate clogged bags; too low may indicate holes in the bags)			
5. Bags: -Are bags properly fastened and have adequate tension? -Are bags free of tears, holes, or abrasions? -Are replacement bags on hand?			
6. Bag Cleaning Controls: -Are proper cleaning, sequence and cycle times being used? -Are compressed air lines and shakers working properly?			
7. Fan: -Is static pressure of the fan within normal range?			
8. Stack: -Is particulate visible in the baghouse exhaust? (particulate should not be visible)			
9. Hoppers: -Are hoppers okay? (not too full, bridging or plugging) -Is screw conveyor lubricated? -Are the hopper viewing doors/hatches closed?			
10. Load Out Area: -Is particulate matter is controlled during loadout into containers and/or trucks? (Spills must be cleaned up immediately.)			



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