

Dust in Your Home and Dust in Space

Dust Type	Size	Composition	Location <i>Dust is everywhere</i>	Formation process
House Dust	100 to 0.01 micrometers One million micrometers fit inside one meter; or one thousand micrometers fit inside one millimeter.	Organic compounds (hair, skin, dander, flour). Fibers from clothing, carpet, and vegetation. Pollen, spores, insect parts and insects (like mites).	Air, air filter, floor, carpet, pillows, clothing, fireplace flue, window sill, TV screen.	People shed skin cells, hair, and lint from clothing. Pets shed dander and hair. Cooking food produces smoke.
Earth Dust		Smoke from power plants, fires, and automobiles. Salt flakes from the ocean, volcanic ash, sand.	Air, land, glaciers.	Volcanic eruption, erosion, meteorite impacts, combustion, dust from space.
Interstellar Dust (dust among stars)	1 micrometer to nanometers. 1,000 nanometers fit inside one micrometer.	Silicates (SiO ₂) like sand and quartz. Molecules of carbon and hydrogen: some molecules are well structured like graphite, but most probably have amorphous or stringy shapes.	Our solar system and between stars in vast clouds.	Nuclear fusion in giant stars, novae, supernovae.

Chart Hint: Make a photocopy of this chart on transparency film.