

Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance

Guiding question

Concrete → flows → sensors → calculation → failure → refuge.

Course map

The real phenomenon → Vocabulary and problem boundary → Course-specific system view → Mathematical relationship and reading the symbols → Worked calculations and interpretation

1 — The real phenomenon

Mars dust can enter through airlocks, cling to suits, load filters and mechanisms, reduce optical or thermal performance and increase wear. Architecture must limit ingress, measure loading, protect sensitive zones and organize cleaning without redistributing contamination through the habitat. Maintenance becomes a loop: capture, contain, inspect, replace, account and learn.

The guiding question is: Why should dust be treated as a contamination flow rather than merely a cleaning problem? Reasoning starts with the physical or operational function before introducing the mathematical relationship. The goal is not to accumulate terminology, but to know which quantity changes, why it changes and what becomes hazardous when it leaves its domain. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the first task here is therefore to identify the mechanism specific to this subject before searching for an equation or reference value.

2 — Vocabulary and problem boundary

In “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, distinguish the phenomenon, available measurement, any command, the margin and the success criterion. The calculation boundary states what is included and excluded; without that boundary, a percentage, mass or time may be mathematically correct but wrong as an engineering conclusion. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the chosen boundary also states what would otherwise be double-counted or omitted from a mission budget.

particulate loading, filter pressure drop, seal contamination, abrasion and deposits on optical/thermal surfaces
contaminated seal, saturated filter, blinded optical surface or undetected progressive abrasion
dust rigs, open-close cycling, metrology inspection and comparative cleaning campaigns

Equation - evidence - decision

$$L = m_{\text{poussière}}/A ; m = C \times V$$

Failure to test: The reference failure is not a vague “broken component.” For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, test in particular contaminated seal, saturated filter, blinded optical surface or undetected progressive abrasion. Diagnosis asks which symptoms appear first, which are only consequences and which action preserves the most options.

Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance**3 — Course-specific system view**

This lesson does not reuse one generic picture for every subject. The system view follows cause → measured quantity → decision or physical response → limit for “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”. The English text remains fully equivalent while large translated illustrations are intentionally deferred until their dedicated artwork is supplied. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the system view must expose inputs, outputs, measured quantity and the consequence of drift without relying on a generic module diagram.

4 — Mathematical relationship and reading the symbols

Read aloud : surface loading L equals dust mass divided by area; mass in a volume can be estimated from concentration C times volume V .

Before substituting numbers, write the unit of every term, state whether the relationship is a physical law, approximation or project indicator, and check dimensional consistency. This is especially important here because “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance” combines quantities that do not all have the same evidence status. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, this relationship is chosen because of the phenomenon under study; a different dominant quantity would require a different equation or model.

5 — Worked calculations and interpretation

$$120 \text{ g} / 2 \text{ m}^2 = 60 \text{ g/m}^2$$

$$5 \text{ mg/m}^3 \times 80 \text{ m}^3 = 400 \text{ mg in this uniform model}$$

$$900 \text{ g capacity} / 30 \text{ g/day} = 30 \text{ theoretical days before threshold}$$

1. 1. Filter loading $120 \text{ g} / 2 \text{ m}^2 = 60 \text{ g/m}^2$ Interpretation: this result is used only after comparison with units, margin and the scenario boundary for “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”.

2. 2. Suspended mass $5 \text{ mg/m}^3 \times 80 \text{ m}^3 = 400 \text{ mg}$ in this uniform model Interpretation: this result is used only after comparison with units, margin and the scenario boundary for “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”.

3. 3. Maintenance interval $900 \text{ g capacity} / 30 \text{ g/day} = 30 \text{ theoretical days before threshold}$ Interpretation: this result is used only after comparison with units, margin and the scenario boundary for “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”.

Operational table

Phenomena / sections: 3 — Course-specific system view ; 4 — Mathematical relationship and reading the symbols ; 5 — Worked calculations and interpretation

Relationship to revisit: $L = m_{\text{poussière}}/A$; $m = C \times V$

Expected decision: measure → compare with margin → choose nominal, degraded or stop

Check before continuing

Explain without rereading: 3 — Course-specific system view ; 4 — Mathematical relationship and reading the symbols ; 5 — Worked calculations and interpretation. State one measured quantity, one margin and one possible decision.

Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance

6 — What the formula does not contain

The relationship “ $L = m_{\text{poussière}}/A$; $m = C \times V$ ” does not by itself contain all of “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”. It does not automatically tell us whether a sensor is valid, a structure is aging, a resource is accessible, a command arrives in time or a secondary failure removes margin. The example $120 \text{ g} / 2 \text{ m}^2 = 60 \text{ g/m}^2$ therefore remains a local calculation rather than a complete architecture.

To make the model useful, explicitly add the quantities that dominate this subject: particulate loading, filter pressure drop, seal contamination, abrasion and deposits on optical/thermal surfaces. We can then ask which variation truly changes the result, which is negligible and which forces an architectural change. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, this model limitation states exactly what a correct calculation still cannot establish about the real system.

7 — Instrumentation, observability and data quality

For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, observability relies on particulate loading, filter pressure drop, seal contamination, abrasion and deposits on optical/thermal surfaces. Each datum has a unit, acquisition rate, uncertainty, timestamp and validity domain. A value arriving without context can be more dangerous than no measurement because it creates unjustified confidence.

Consistency is checked with at least one independent piece of information when the function is critical. A trend, physical balance or second measurement principle helps distinguish a real system change from a drifting sensor. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the selected instrumentation must distinguish a real physical change from sensor drift or a bad state estimate.

8 — Phenomenon-specific failures and recovery

The reference failure is not a vague “broken component.” For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, test in particular contaminated seal, saturated filter, blinded optical surface or undetected progressive abrasion. Diagnosis asks which symptoms appear first, which are only consequences and which action preserves the most options.

The degraded mode must be defined before failure: minimum function, allowable duration, consumed stock, crew action, abort condition and return-to-nominal criterion. That sequence is topic-specific and cannot be replaced by one universal paragraph about redundancy. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the degraded mode is defined around the minimum function specific to this subject, with an abort threshold and a return-to-nominal condition.

Operational table

Phenomena / sections:	6 — What the formula does not contain ; 7 — Instrumentation, observability and data quality ; 8 — Phenomenon-specific failures and recovery
Relationship to revisit:	$L = m_{\text{poussière}}/A$; $m = C \times V$
Expected decision:	measure → compare with margin → choose nominal, degraded or stop

Check before continuing

Explain without rereading: 6 — What the formula does not contain ; 7 — Instrumentation, observability and data quality ; 8 — Phenomenon-specific failures and recovery. State one measured quantity, one margin and one possible decision.

Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance

9 — NASA / reference case

The reference case is selected from ECLSS, NASA-STD-3001 or human-analog evidence according to the topic. The goal is not to copy the ISS onto Mars, but to identify what has been demonstrated, what is environment-dependent and what still requires qualification for a mission without rapid resupply.

The case is used only within what it actually demonstrates. Flight measurement, human-system standard, component test and architecture study are different kinds of evidence; the text therefore states what is observed, calculated, simulated or still prospective. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the cited NASA case is used as targeted evidence for this phenomenon and is never turned into one universal Mars architecture.

10 — Architecture trade

A good solution for “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance” does not maximize one metric. Compare nominal performance, mass, energy, simplicity, maintenance, crew time, common dependencies and recoverability. An option that improves $5\text{ mg/m}^3 \times 80\text{ m}^3 = 400\text{ mg}$ in this uniform model can still be rejected if it makes failure detection or repair much harder.

The trade is recorded together with its assumptions. If environment data, mass or mission cadence changes, we know which conclusions must be recomputed instead of silently preserving an obsolete choice. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the trade is evaluated against the interfaces actually touched by this subject rather than a generic list of desirable qualities.

11 — Demonstration, testing and success criteria

The evidence strategy for “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance” combines dust rigs, open-close cycling, metrology inspection and comparative cleaning campaigns. Every test records exact hardware, software, configuration, environment, tolerances and success criterion. A successful demonstration outside the mission domain does not replace qualification inside it.

Evidence grows by levels: analytical relationship, simulation, component, subsystem, integrated system, duration and failure. This hierarchy prevents one spectacular test from being presented as validation of the whole mission. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, demonstration must reproduce the constraints that make this phenomenon difficult; a spectacular test outside the mission domain is insufficient.

Operational table

Phenomena / sections:	9 — NASA / reference case ; 10 — Architecture trade ; 11 — Demonstration, testing and success criteria
Relationship to revisit:	$L = m_{\text{poussière}}/A$; $m = C \times V$
Expected decision:	measure → compare with margin → choose nominal, degraded or stop

Check before continuing

Explain without rereading: 9 — NASA / reference case ; 10 — Architecture trade ; 11 — Demonstration, testing and success criteria. State one measured quantity, one margin and one possible decision.

Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance

12 — Decision exercise

Situation: revisit “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance” with a 20% increase in the most penalizing quantity from the first worked example while one measurement or backup path is unavailable.

Situation: revisit “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance” with a 20% increase in the most penalizing quantity from the first worked example while one measurement or backup path is unavailable. Expected answer: recompute the relationship, identify remaining margin, check whether observability is still adequate, and decide whether degraded operation remains acceptable. Multiplying by 1.2 is not enough if the variation also changes interfaces or limits.

13 — What to retain without over-generalizing

14 — Topic-specific primary sources

These references directly document the phenomenon, technology or human constraint addressed in this lesson. They do not by themselves define an official Mars architecture. For “Mars dust: contamination, filtration, abrasion and maintenance”, the bibliography is deliberately targeted to this page so that readers can trace each claim back to the relevant primary document.

Topic-specific primary sources

NASA — Spaceflight Human-System Standard, Volume 2 - <https://www.nasa.gov/reference/nasa-std-3001v2/>
NASA NTRS — Crew Health and Performance EVA Evidence Report - <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20220004017>
NASA Safety and Mission Assurance — Reliability and Maintainability - <https://sma.nasa.gov/sma-disciplines/reliability-and-maintainability>

Operational table

Phenomena / sections:	12 — Decision exercise ; 13 — What to retain without over-generalizing ; 14 — Topic-specific primary sources
Relationship to revisit:	$L = m_{\text{poussière}}/A$; $m = C \times V$
Expected decision:	measure → compare with margin → choose nominal, degraded or stop

Check before continuing

Explain without rereading: 12 — Decision exercise ; 13 — What to retain without over-generalizing ; 14 — Topic-specific primary sources. State one measured quantity, one margin and one possible decision.