How a Cyclone Cleans Polluted Air

1. Dirty (polluted) air from a factory enters the cyclone.
2. The dirty air is swirled about in a mechanically-generated wind.
3. Inertia causes the pollutant particles to leave the circular path of the wind, collect against the wall of the cyclone, and fall into a collection hopper.
4. Clean air is released from the cyclone system.

Source: Natalie Mach and Ben Terry, ITL Program, College of Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder, 2004 and 2011