

FILTERING OUT THE FACTS:



SILICA DUST

WHAT IS SILICA?

Respirable Silica Dust is created by cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling and crushing silica producing materials



RESPIRABLE
CRYSTALLINE SILICA IS
AT LEAST 100 TIMES
SMALLER THAN SAND

500
MICROGRAMS
SILICA



In 2011 about **587,000** Australians were exposed to silica dust whilst working. It is estimated that **5,758** of these workers will develop lung cancer over the course of their life.

AFFECTED INDUSTRIES:

Breaking, crushing, grinding or milling silica-containing material

Using or fitting some plastic composite products

Moving earth e.g. excavating, mining, quarrying, tilling or tunnelling

Sand blasting

Brick-laying

Sand casting

Paving, surfacing and cement finishing

Mineral-ore treating processes

Laying, maintaining or replacing ballast

Road construction

Demolition

Stonemasonry

Manufacture of glass, ceramics, concrete, tile, coke, metals, steel metal casting or mineral products

Drilling, cutting, chiselling or sanding silica-containing material

Handling, mixing or shovelling dry silica-containing material

WHAT MATTERS MOST?

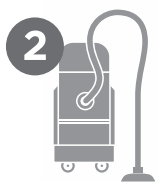
- +** **MINIMISE** the exposure through controls and work practices.
- ?** **TRAIN** workers on health hazards and workplace exposures.
- **PROVIDE** protection for workers through equipment and PPE.

SOLVING FOR SILICA DUST

MOST COMMON HOUSEKEEPING PROCESSES PLANNED TO HELP CONTROL SILICA DUST



MECHANIZED FLOOR
CLEANING EQUIPMENT



INDUSTRIAL
VACUUMS



FLOODING

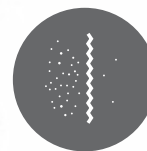
CLEANING METHODS LIKELY TO ADOPT

MOST COMMON



WET SWEEPING

MOST PREFERRED



DRY SWEEPING WITH
HEPA FILTRATION*

SOURCES

<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/hazardous-chemical/priority-chemicals/crystalline-silica>
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/silica>
<https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2019/10/29/silicosis-countertop/>
<https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/workplace-cancer/silica-dust.html>

*Dry sweeping with HEPA filtration is only acceptable when other methods are not feasible.

CONTACT TENNANT TO LEARN MORE:

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