

Silica dust in the construction industry

If you work in the construction industry, it is likely you are exposed to silica dust.

What is silica dust?

Silica is found in many materials. Silica dust is generated when silica-containing materials are cut, crushed, drilled, ground, polished, sanded, sawed or disturbed with force.

ANOTHER ONE
FIGHTS THE DUST



Reducing exposure to silica dust

Following the Hierarchy of Controls is the most effective way to reduce your exposure to silica dust.

It may not always be possible to **eliminate** silica dust from your workplace. If you cannot eliminate it, you must follow control measures from the highest level of effectiveness to the lowest.



Substitution

Use alternative materials that have a lower silica content or choose products that do not contain silica.



Isolation

Use temporary barriers around dust-generating activities.



Engineering

Use on-tool extraction and dust suppression like water sprays, extraction or dilution ventilation.



Administrative

Ensure areas where silica-containing materials are worked on, including machinery, are maintained and regularly cleaned with an industrial, high-efficiency particulate air filter vacuum. Do not dry sweep.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wear approved and correctly fitted respiratory protective equipment. This includes face fit testing to ensure a proper seal.



You should never rely solely on PPE to protect yourself from silica dust.