



CAPTURE

Materials such as wood do not suit the use of water to suppress dusts so you must consider alternatives. Capturing the dust as it is released from the material being worked on is the only alternative to water suppression, but this must be done properly.

When purchasing or hiring your tools, consider whether it has the facility to extract dust 'on the tool', as this is the only way you can effectively capture the dusts as they are released. Some tools are fitted with dust bags, but these have only limited efficiency as there is no mechanism to actively suck the dusts out of the tool.

Always try to use a means that will remove the dust by suction.

PROTECT

Even the best control measures aren't going to prevent all dust being released, and it is for this reason that respiratory protective equipment must also be used. Dust masks are graded in three levels - P1, P2, and P3. You should always wear a P3 mask as only these offer the right levels of protection.

Even these aren't infallible so make sure you carry out a face fit test so you can create a tight seal against the face. Beards and stubble simply lift the mask off the face meaning dust can still get round the mask so be aware of this.

REMEMBER!

Exposures to dust won't lead to health problems until later in life.
If you protect yourself now then you won't suffer in the coming years, but if you do nothing then by the time you feel the ill health effects it will be too late.



Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Soliuhull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk



Every effort has been made by HAE/EHA to ensure that the information given in this document and supporting material is accurate and not misleading. HAE/EHA cannot accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments have the force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

Any unauthorised reproduction – manually or electronically – is STRICTLY prohibited

©Copyright Hire Association Europe April 2011

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Soliuhull B37 7YE



Stopping dusts being released should be your priority every time. If there is no dust, then there is no hazard to be exposed to. Damping down your process is the cheapest and most effective way of doing this as wet dusts form a slurry that cannot become airborne. Without any dust in the environment then not only are you reducing what you may breathe in, but you also have the benefit of less cleaning up to do afterwards.

STOP

Whenever you are doing an activity that creates dusts you have an obligation to protect yourself and the others working around you.

WHAT MUST I DO ABOUT IT?

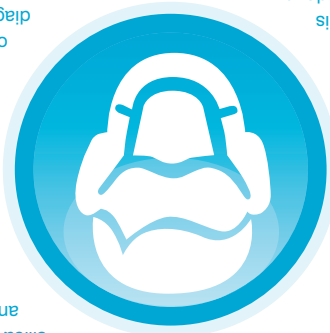
do you harm.

specific dusts can clog up the pathways in your lung leading to inflammatory responses in the lung, chronic bronchitis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Around 4,000 people die each year from COPD in the UK from exposures people have had whilst at work. Remember that there is no such thing as general dust; it is always made up of many different compounds. All of these compounds have the potential to

DUST

When you are breathing in dust that is not wood or silica does that mean its not going to have an effect on you? Non

tools. (known as respirable crystalline silica) which is produced when concrete and stone is sanded, cut or drilled with power inhaling the finest silica dust diagnosed. It is caused by once it has been silica. There is no cure from exposure to disease that occurs to debilitating lung Silicosis is a do arise. assured they can and years to become and may take 10 to 30 silica exposure are not quick effects fairly quickly. The effects of with, and this is because they see the working with the material may be familiar from concrete are something that people on us. The effect of irritation or burns regularly disregard the effect it can have Because it is so common people commonly we come across it as sand. used throughout the world, and most



compound called silica. Like wood, it is Stone and concrete contain a natural

STONE AND CONCRETE

MDF is an industrially engineered form of wood, made from separated softwood and hardwood fibres. Because of this make up, it has greater potential to form particularly fine dusts when it is cut or worked on. MDF is particularly hazardous because it is made from both softwood and hardwood, and the fine dusts it produces increase the likelihood that dangerous amounts can be breathed in.

MDF

on the type of wood the dust from them can cause allergic reactions or cause cancers in the nose and lungs. Softwood dust is known to cause sensitisation – an allergic reaction, whereas hardwood dust is a known carcinogen. It's vital therefore that you take the right precautions against breathing in these dusts.

Wood dust is a serious problem that people ignore at their peril. Just because it is a natural material that is in use throughout the world many believe that is not particularly hazardous. Depending

WOOD

diminished. something is wrong, the ability for the illness to be treated is significantly seriously ill health problems. Unfortunately by the time you feel that the months and years to give rise to these little exposures that add up over do anything to protect themselves. It is could this small bit of work do "and not only doing a quick job" or "what harm many people think to themselves. "I'm exposures to small levels of dust. Too symptoms rise from many repeated exposure to dust. The ill health significant ill health through a single exposure to dust. The ill health would be very rare for anyone to suffer visible hazards.

workplace takes a back seat to the more potentially deadly hazard in the Unfortunately, the appreciation of this researched and well known. The effects of different dusts is well

ABOUT IT?

WHY SHOULD I WORRY