

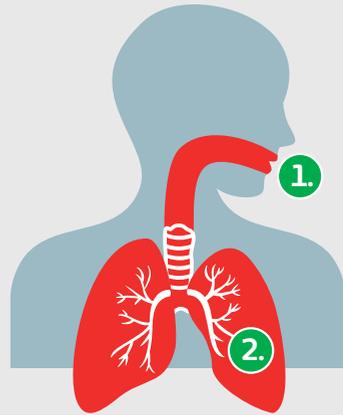
# Construction Dust: The Risk to Health & the Effective Solutions Available

As a construction worker you are 100 times more likely to die as a result of a disease caused by your work than you are from an accident on site.

An estimated 13,000 deaths each year are linked to past exposure to chemicals or dust. Construction workers are most at risk because many site tasks create large amounts of dust. And scientific studies have linked dust exposure to serious health risks such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), heart attacks and asthma. But these health effects resulting from exposure to dust may only become obvious after long-term exposure.

# Type of dusts and their effects

Dust particles come in a range of sizes. The smaller dust particles have the biggest impact on workers' health.



## 1. Inhalable dust: Wood dust

From softwood, hardwood and wood-based products like MDF and plywood. Wood dust gets deposited in the upper respiratory tract. Although usually cleared by mucus, it is still hazardous to workers' health by causing skin cancer, dermatitis and acne.

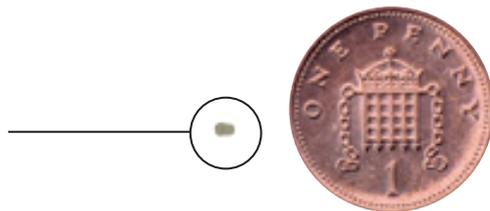
## 2. Respirable dust: Silica / Fibrous dust

From silica-containing materials like granite, concrete, mortar and sandstone, as well as asbestos. These dusts are so fine that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems, such as cancer, COPD, asbestosis, silcosis and asthma.

# Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs)

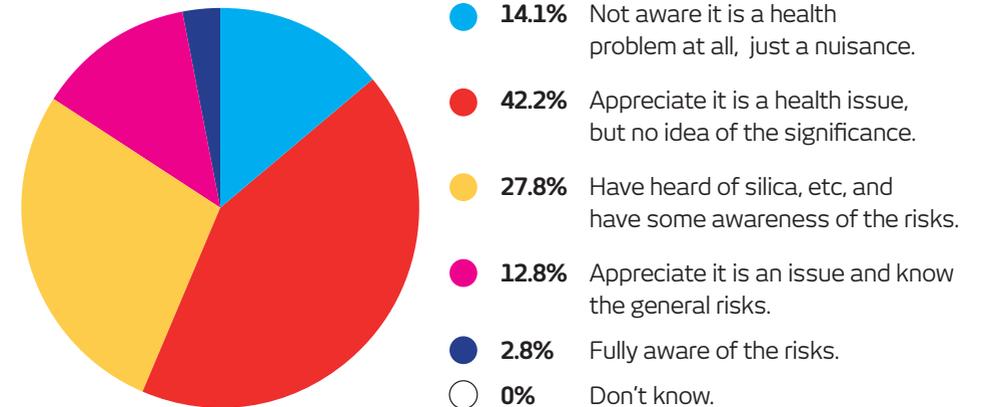
The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations sets a limit on the amount of dust that workers can safely breathe (called a Workplace Exposure Limit or WEL). When compared to a penny it is tiny – like a small pinch of salt.

The amount of **silica dust** considered safe to absorb in a day.



# An underestimated danger

According to the Construction Dust Industry Survey of 618 people, over 40% of those who responded were aware of the health risks of construction dust, but didn't know the true consequences.



# Tasks that require dust control measures

The disturbing of concrete, stone or wood through any cutting, blasting, sanding and sawing techniques; also rock drilling, jack hammering, demolition work, machining operations and dry sweeping.

## How to control:

1. Carry out a dust assessment
2. Properly ventilate workplaces
3. Use vacuum extraction/filtration systems
4. Implement wet dust-suppression systems
5. Erect containment tents
6. Use respiratory protective equipment

# Protect yourself with specialist equipment

## Raptor®



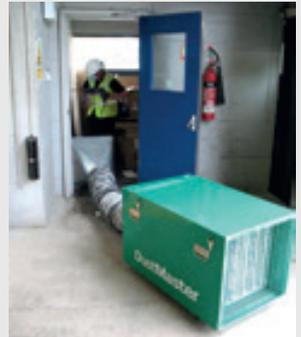
An innovative self-contained portable dust filtration unit, designed to capture and filter dust from a wide range of activities on construction sites. Powerful yet quiet, it can be used to create negative pressure and filter harmful dust during refurbishment works.



## Dustmaster®



Designed to withstand demanding applications, this rustproof galvanised steel unit incorporates the powerful VENTEX® axial fan which delivers up to 3500m<sup>3</sup>/hr of free air and can be used to create negative pressure. Captures and passes air through three filter stages without losing effectiveness.



## Dustrap Tent®



Providing the most effective dust control system, the Dustrap Tent contains dust being created and allows it to be captured at source without spreading into neighbouring sensitive areas. It also assists with creating negative pressures.



HSS have a selection of specialist equipment available to help protect yourself and your workers from the dangers of dust.

**CONTACT US ON 0345 282828**  
TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS TODAY

**HSS Hire**  
You're better equipped