

# WORKING SAFELY AROUND SILICA DUST

## Higher-risk Tasks

Silica dust is common on many jobsites and exposure is more likely during tasks such as:

- Cutting or grinding concrete
- Drilling, chipping, or demolition
- Dry sweeping or blowing dust with compressed air

When these activities are performed, employers are responsible for putting controls in place to reduce exposure.

## Working Safely on Site

Employers are responsible for putting controls in place to reduce silica exposure. Workers help keep those controls effective by using them as intended.

On site, this means:

- Using the dust controls provided for your task
- Following site procedures for dusty work
- Wearing required PPE, the way you were trained
- Reporting heavy dust, missing controls, or equipment issues
- Letting your supervisor know if PPE isn't working properly

## PPE Reminder

PPE is the last line of defence and is used when dust can't be fully controlled.

- Wear the respirator your site assigns
- Some tasks require higher-efficiency filters (P100, PAPR, etc). If the available PPE does not meet the required level of protection, work should not continue until proper protection is provided.
- Wear PPE the whole time you're in dusty areas
- Report damaged or poorly fitting PPE
- Use when cutting or grinding concrete, stone, or brick
- Use when drilling, chipping, or demolition
- Use when dry sweeping or blowing dust with compressed air

**Know your rights:** You can report unsafe conditions to your supervisor or JOHS Committee and refuse work that can't be done safely, such as cutting stone without suitable protection.

Learn more at [LungSquatters.ca](https://LungSquatters.ca)



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