

**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?

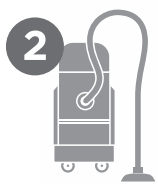
- +** **MINIMISE** the exposure through controls and work practices.
- ?** **TRAIN** workers on health hazards and workplace exposures.
- ⊖** **PROVIDE** protection for workers through equipment and PPE.

# SOLVING FOR SILICA DUST

### MOST COMMON HOUSEKEEPING PROCESSES PLANNED TO HELP CONTROL SILICA DUST



**1** MECHANIZED FLOOR CLEANING EQUIPMENT



**2** INDUSTRIAL VACUUMS



**3** FLOODING

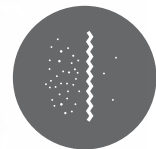
### CLEANING METHODS LIKELY TO ADOPT

#### 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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