



## Silica Dust Warning Signs

A workplace checklist for checking silica dust controls

The most dangerous respirable crystalline silica (RCS) particles are too small to see, and the lung damage they can cause can't be undone.

### 1 Warning signs to watch for *Tick any warning signs you see.*

- ☐ Stone, concrete or engineered stone is being cut dry with no water suppression.
  - ☐ A visible cloud of dust forms during the work.
  - ☐ Water suppression or extraction isn't working properly.
  - ☐ You haven't been told about the silica risk.
  - ☐ You've been given a mask without face-fit testing.
  - ☐ Dust is cleared with a dry brush or compressed air.
-  *Not seeing dust doesn't mean the air is safe. The most dangerous particles are invisible.*

### 2 What good control looks like *Check that these controls are in place.*

- ☐ The hazard is avoided or significantly reduced wherever possible.
- ☐ Materials are cut wet, not dry, with effective water suppression.
- ☐ Extraction and ventilation clear any remaining dust from the air.
- ☐ Respiratory PPE is properly fitted and face-fit tested.
- ☐ Appropriate health surveillance is in place to identify signs of harm early.

### 3 What to do if you're concerned *Use these steps to raise the issue.*

- ☐ Raise it with your supervisor, safety rep, or trade union rep.
  - ☐ Ask how the work has been assessed and what controls should be in place.
  - ☐ Record what you've observed if the risk isn't being properly controlled.
-  *You have the right to know the risk and the right to be protected from it. One awkward conversation is a small price next to a diagnosis that can't be reversed.*