

Toolbox talk

Year-round

5 minutes

Silica Dust Toolbox Talk

Silica dust is created by cutting, grinding, drilling, or disturbing materials such as concrete, brick, block, stone, and mortar. Use the assigned control method before dust is visible.

READ ALOUD (ABOUT 5 MINUTES)

Silica dust is small enough to breathe deep into the lungs. If we see dust, we are already late. The control has to be part of the task setup.

Use the method assigned for the tool and material: water delivery, HEPA vacuum, ventilation, restricted access, or respirator use when required. Do not dry sweep dust. Do not blow it around with compressed air.

If the control is missing, clogged, out of water, or not connected, stop the task and fix the control before continuing.

INCIDENT EXAMPLE

A crew dry-cut block for a short task because the water attachment was missing. Dust drifted into an adjacent work area and coated stored material. The task was quick, but the exposure affected more than the worker holding the saw.

CONTROLS TO COVER

- Confirm the Table 1 or exposure-control method before work starts.
- Use water or HEPA vacuum systems as assigned.
- Keep other workers out of dusty areas.
- Use respiratory protection when the control plan requires it.

CREW DISCUSSION

1. Which tasks today could create silica dust?
2. What control is assigned for each tool?
3. How will we keep other crews out of the exposure area?

QUICK QUIZ

1. Is visible dust the first sign to start controls?
No. Controls must be in place before dust is generated.
2. Can silica dust be cleaned with dry sweeping?
No. Use approved cleanup methods such as HEPA vacuuming or wet methods.
3. Name one common material that can contain silica.
Concrete, brick, block, stone, mortar, or tile.

Reference: 29 CFR 1926.1153 - OSHA construction silica rules set a permissible exposure limit and Table 1 control options for common tasks.

Toolbox Talk Sign-In Sheet

Attendance record for the talk above. Reviewers (OSHA, GC, ISNetworld/Avetta) expect topic, date, presenter identity, and attendee signatures.

Project / location

Date and time

Topic: Silica Dust Toolbox Talk

Presenter (print)

Presenter signature

NAME (PRINT)	COMPANY / TRADE	SIGNATURE

Concerns raised and follow-up actions (owner, due date)