Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

do you harm. these compounds have the potential to up of many different compounds. All of thing as general dust; it is always made work. Remember that there is no such exposures people nave nad whilst at die each year from COPD in the UK from disease (COPD). Around 4,000 people or chronic obstructive pulmonary responses in the lung, chronic bronchitis in your lung leading to inflammatory specific dusts can clog up the pathways

STI TUOBA OD I TSUM TAHW

stound you. protect yourself and the others working creates dusts you have an obligation to Whenever you are doing an activity that

GOTS

cleaning up to do afterwards. you also have the benefit of less reducing what you may breathe in, but environment then not only are you airborne. Without any dust in the form a slurry that cannot become effective way of doing this as wet dusts process is the cheapest and most exposed to. Damping down your dust, then there is no hazard to be be your priority every time. If there is no Stopping dusts being released should

and may take 10 to 30 silica exposure are not quick effects fairly quickly. The effects of with, and this is because they see the working with the material may be familiar from concrete are something that people on us. The effect of irritation or burns regularly disregard the effect it can have Because it is so common people commonly we come across it as sand. used throughout the world, and most

silica. There is no cure trom exposure to disease that occurs 6uni debilitating g SI Silicosis do anse. assured they can and apparent, pnt rest years to amocade

once it has been

.**SIOO**1 stone is sanded, cut or drilled with power which is produced when concrete and (known as respirable crystalline silica) inhaling the finest silica dust diagnosed. It is caused by

TSUQ

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going to have an effect on you? Non not wood or silica does that mean its not When you are breathing in dust that is

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out of the tool

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REMEMBER!

Exposures to dust won't lead to health problems until later in life.

Always try to use a means that will remove the dust by suction.

When purchasing or hiring your tools, consider whether it has the facility to extract dust 'on the tool', as this is the only way you can effectively capture the dusts as they are released. Some tools are fitted with dust bags, but these have only limited efficiency as there is no mechanism to actively suck the dusts

Materials such as wood do not suit the use of water to suppress dusts so you must consider alternatives. Capturing the dust as it is released from the material being worked on is the only alternative to water suppression, but this must be done properly.

Dust masks are graded in three levels -P1 P2 and P3 You should always wear a P2 or P3 mask as only these offer the right levels of protection. Even these aren't infallible so make sure

you carry out a face fit test so you can round the mask so be aware of this.

PROTECT

Even the best control measures aren't going to prevent all dust being released, and it is for this reason that respiratory protective equipment must also be used.

create a tight seal against the face. Beards and stubble simply lift the mask off the face meaning dust can still get

·sisub precautions against breathing in these therefore that you take the right dust is a known carcinogen. It's vital allergic reaction, whereas hardwood dust is known to cause sensitisation - an cancers in the nose and lungs. Softwood can cause allergic reactions or cause on the type of wood the dust from them

JOW

inat dangerous amounts can be dusts it produces increase the likelihood softwood and hardwood, and the tine because it is made from both nazardous paricularly ou. MDF MOLKED SI anats when it is cut or form particularly fine greater potential to this make up, it has fibres. Because of pardwood guq separated softwood wood, made from engineered form of MDF is an industrially

breathed in.

STONE AND CONCRETE

compound called silica. Like wood, it is Stone and concrete contain a natural

vensue. :lism3 44 (0) 121 330 4600 44 (0) 121 333 4109 :euoydeje

the dust you are breathing in is.



bloblems.



is not particularly hazardous. Depending

throughout the world many believe that it

it is a natural material that is in use

people ignore at their peril. Just because

Wood dust is a serious problem that

illness to be treated is significantly

something is wrong, the ability for the

Unfortunately by the time you feel that

the months and years to give the to

these little exposures that add up over

do anything to protect themselves. It is

could this small bit of work do" and not

only doing a quick job' or "what harm

many people think to themselves, "I'm

exposures to small levels of dust. Too

symptoms rise from many repeated

exposure to dust. The ill health

significant ill health through a single

It would be very rare for anyone to suffer

workplace takes a back seat to the more

potentially deadly hazard in the

Untortunately, the appreciation of this

researched and well known.

The effects of different dusts is well

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serious III health

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visible hazards.

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accurate and not mis have the force of law and only the courts can a

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Different materials can affect you in different ways. In the same way the size of the dust can have different effects.

The harm that it can do to you depends on what the material

is, don't fall into the misconception that all dust does the

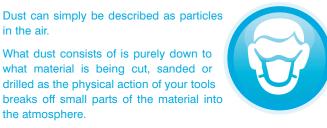
Specific materials which can do particular harm to you are

wood, concrete and stone, but other materials have similar

You may well have heard of the terms inhalable and

respirable dust before. This is simply a reference to how fine

potential to harm you and the people around you.







CAPTURE

For more information on health and safety in construction go to HSF www.hse.gov.uk/construction/

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2000 Dangers of Dust



Dust can simply be described as particles in the air

What dust consists of is purely down to

what material is being cut, sanded or

drilled as the physical action of your tools

the atmosphere.

same thing.