

Tips for Dusty Jobs Stonecutters



Health Hazard Information Card HH-38



Stonecutters are exposed to more dust than the typical mine employee. Because mine dust may have silica in it, you should take steps to protect yourself against a possible health hazard.

Silicosis Can Be Deadly

Some dust is stopped by the body's natural defense system, but the smallest dust particles can penetrate deep into the lungs. The harm from dust depends on what it's made of, what size it is, how much you breathe, and how long you breathe it. If you're exposed to enough dust with silica, in time you can get a disease called ***silicosis***.

Silicosis can be a disabling, ***even fatal***, illness and it can't be reversed once a person has it. Lung tissue becomes scarred and inflexible and breathing becomes harder and harder.

**If it's silica ...
it's not just dust.**

Silicosis can't be reversed ... but it can be prevented.

WORKING SMART

- Maintain dust controls.
- Keep skirting and shrouds tight to contain dust.
- Operate dust collection systems when cutting stone.
- If system uses water, Never Cut Dry! Your water supply is vital to your health.
- Don't dry sweep – It puts dust in the air where you can breathe it.
- Keep work area clean – Don't let dust build up.
- Use water or a vacuum system with a remotely located exhaust or a HEPA* filter.
- Compressed air is NOT for cleaning clothes or equipment.
- Report any maintenance or system problems right away.
- Maintain and clean equipment when it's not operating.
- Work upwind of dust clouds or dusty areas.

RESPIRATORS MUST BE...

- The right type and worn correctly.
- Clean.
- Worn – not hung on your neck or on top of your hat.
- The right fit to stop dust from getting into your lungs.
- A good fit – Beards prevent it.

* High Efficiency Particulate Air - *(always maintain HEPA filters according to manufacturer's instructions)*