



Silica dust control when drilling concrete

Drilling into concrete releases a fine sandy dust, which contains crystalline silica. Breathing in this dust can cause a serious lung disease called silicosis. Electricians, plumbers, sprinkler installers, and other mechanical trades who regularly and routinely drill into concrete are at risk of developing this disease.

Controlling the dust

Hammer drills are available with attached dust removal systems. These draw dust from the drill end, down the attachment assembly, and collect it in a HEPA filter.

Dust caps are simple but effective devices that fit on the end of the drill and capture and collect concrete dust. When the cap is full, the dust is emptied into a receptacle for disposal.

Placing the hose from a HEPA equipped vacuum near the location of the drill is also a very effective means of capturing the dust.

Wet control methods are also an effective means to reduce dust while drilling.

To protect yourself, you should:

- Establish a barrier around your work to restrict unprotected workers from entering the area
- Select drills equipped with dust capture/removal attachments when available
- Learn how to operate and maintain the dust removal devices in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions
- Inspect the dust control devices before use to ensure they are in good condition
- Clean the attachments on a routine basis to maintain effective dust control and prolong the life of the components
- Wear a disposable N95 respirator or a half-face respirator equipped with 100 series (HEPA) filters when using a dust removal system or cap system
- Wear a full-face respirator equipped with a 100 series (HEPA) filter and disposable coveralls when drilling many holes, and dust controls are not available or practical
- Use a vacuum approved for concrete dust to clean up any spilled dust on your clothes, equipment, or other surfaces

Do not use compressed air to blow dust off your clothing, equipment, or tools.



Drilling using a dust cap



Drill with dust removal system

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by crew members:

Record of those attending:

| Name: (please print) | Signature: | Company: |
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Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



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