

Chapter 8

Cleaning Up

→ → → IF YOUR COMPANY USES SILICA ABRASIVES, AN EMPLOYER MUST:

Provide sinks, soap, and clean towels for washing your hands, arms and face.

These are essential for you to get silica dusts off your hands, arms and face before eating, drinking, smoking or applying cosmetics or lip balm. Provide small fingernail brushes too, for areas that are hard-to-clean. Don't use shop rags or your work clothes to dry your hands.

Clean your shop.

See the cleanup options on the following page. If you use other abrasive media (e.g., steel shot) in addition to silica, make sure the aisles and walkways are kept clear so you don't create a slipping hazard.

Set up a separate eating area and keep it clean.

Don't allow employees to eat, drink, smoke or apply cosmetics in areas where toxic materials, including silica, are used.

Make rules about eating, drinking, smoking and personal cleanliness.

Instructions about keeping food and tobacco out of work areas and how to motivate coworkers to follow the safety rules is included later in this chapter. Many companies have decided to completely prohibit the use of tobacco products at work.

Provide respiratory protection.

Provide clean work clothing.

The easiest way is to use an industrial laundry provider. Tell the provider beforehand that the clothing may be contaminated with crystalline silica dusts. An employee **should not** take contaminated work clothes home to be washed.

See Appendix XIII – MIOSHA Occupational Health Standard Part 474 - Sanitation.

ALL COMPANIES USING SILICA SAND SHOULD READ THIS CHAPTER.

Chapter 8

Cleaning Up

→ → → CLEAN YOUR SHOP

WHAT TO DO

1	Decide which cleanup method your shop will use.	Only two methods are safe: vacuuming with HEPA or wet shoveling. Other methods such as dry sweeping put too much silica dust into the air.
2	Purchase and use the correct equipment for the job.	A vacuum with a HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter is the best choice. Ordinary shop vacuums blow silica dusts back into the area you're cleaning. Abrasive blasting respirators should be worn during cleanup operations.
3	Train anyone assigned to the cleanup crew about silica dusts, their hazards, and how to clean safely.	You must be careful to remove silica dusts rather than dry sweeping them around. Tell the cleanup crew about all the personal protective equipment they should use and wear.
4	If you use a vacuum, follow the manufacturer's instructions for removing the dust and changing filters.	The vacuum needs normal, routine preventive maintenance to work properly. If the maintenance is done incorrectly or not often, someone could end up with exposures to silica dust.
5	The dusts you collect are sometimes hazardous materials. Test the material and dispose of it properly.	Check with your local or state regulators regarding environmental rules for hazardous waste disposal.

**ABRASIVE BLASTING RESPIRATORS (TYPE CE)
SHOULD BE WORN DURING CLEANUP.**

Chapter 8

Cleaning Up

→ → → EATING AREA

WHAT TO DO

1	Prohibit eating, drinking, smoking, and food preparation in all the work areas where silica is used.	All of these can contribute to worker exposure to silica dusts. Make sure your workers understand how important it is to keep food, drink and tobacco dust- free.
2	Set up the lunch and employee breakroom so it is physically separated from work areas.	The breakroom should have walls and a door to separate it from the work areas and keep abrasive blasting dusts from entering.
3	Keep the lunchroom clean.	Put someone in charge of cleaning it daily.
4	Make sure you clean your hands, face, and remove PPE before entering the lunchroom. If not wearing coveralls, vacuum your clothes before entering the lunchroom.	Provide washing facilities so workers can cleanup before entering the lunchroom.
5	Put up MIOSHA-required signs in the work areas to remind workers that eating, drinking and smoking are prohibited while working.	If any of your coworkers don't speak or read English, post any signs in whatever language they understand most fluently.
6	Let your workers know the rules.	Have safety meetings, train employees, post signs, send informational fliers, etc.
7	Motivate employees to follow the rules.	Set a good example by following the rules yourself. If you eat, drink, or smoke while you work, you will have a hard time convincing your coworkers to not do the same!

Chapter 8

Cleaning Up

→ → → MOTIVATION TO FOLLOW SAFETY RULES.

Provide complete silica health and safety training.

<u>PROS</u>	<u>CONS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Gives everyone a complete overview of the hazards of silica, how to avoid these hazards, and your complete health and safety program. → Satisfies the requirement set by OSHA for training workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Training requires time, money and expertise.

→ → → HAVE A SILICA SAFETY MEETING.

<u>PROS</u>	<u>CONS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ongoing commitment that the shop cares about health and safety. → Allows you and the H&S Committee to focus on the specific jobs, work practices and rules that you are concerned with. → Meetings take very limited time. → Routine safety meetings can reinforce what shop workers learn at other training sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → May raise questions that can't be answered. → More complete training will need to be provided later.

Chapter 8

Cleaning Up

→ → → ALL ABOUT RESPIRATORS

If you are breathing any silica dusts, the real solution is to cut down the amount of airborne silica. But cutting airborne silica dusts can take several months. If you have high exposures to silica dust, you need protection immediately, not later.

Respirators are a way to protect you from airborne crystalline silica dust until levels are controlled by local exhaust ventilation or eliminated by substituting alternative blasting medias.

Inspecting, cleaning and storing your respirator is very important. The health benefits gained from washing your hands, arms, and face before eating, eating in a place away from the blasting area, etc., are minimized when you then put on a respirator that is contaminated with silica. Be sure to spend time in caring for your respirator.

Review Chapter 6 for information on respiratory protection and personal protective equipment.

**ABRASIVE BLASTING RESPIRATORS (TYPE CE) SHOULD
BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE BLASTING**

Chapter 8

Cleaning Up

Notes