

Construction Hazards: Dusts

	Source	Health Effects	Controls for Dust
Asbestos	Maintenance and demolition work; roof tear-offs. Construction: floor tile, roofing materials, drywall compounds, gaskets, packing materials, electric insulation, corrosion resistant coatings, heat resistant materials, asbestos cement pipe and sheet.	Long Term: Asbestosis (scarring of the lungs), cancer of the lung, stomach and intestinal tract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asbestos: Asbestos removal jobs may only be done by licensed asbestos contractors. Isolate asbestos work and provide exhaust ventilation or dust collecting device. Keep material wet while removing it. Wear special protective clothing and correct respirators. Remove clothing and shower before leaving enclosed area. Post caution signs and labels. Smoking should be prohibited.
Silica	Maintenance; remodeling; demolition work; application of fire proof coatings; sandblasting; tunneling.	Long Term: Serious, incurable lung disease (silicosis).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls for other dusts: Wear correct respirator (not paper dust masks). Clean up overspray while material is still damp.
Cement	Construction foundations, sidewalks and floors.	<p>Short Term: Eye, nose, skin and lung irritation. Causes skin rashes and infection. Allergic skin rashes.</p> <p>Long Term: Small decrease in lung function, wheezing, shortness of breath.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls for other dusts: Vacuum or wipe off surfaces using wet mop or rags. (Avoid sweeping and blowing away dusts to clear surfaces.) Don't drink, eat or smoke in work area. Wash hands before eating and before breaks.
Wood Dust	Construction, remodeling and demolition. Sawing: wood, plywood, particle board.	<p>Short Term: Allergic skin rash, asthma, nasal irritation, skin and eye irritation.</p> <p>Long Term: Nasal cancer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls for other dusts: Change clothing and where possible shower before going home. Provide local exhaust ventilation of not working in open area. Isolate dusty operations such as sawing and sanding to reduce worker exposure.
Fiberglass & Other Insulation Materials	Insulation on pipes, other insulation, air conditioning.	<p>Short Term: Skin, eye, nose and throat irritation; shortness of breath.</p> <p>Long Term: May cause lung cancer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls for other dusts: Change clothing and where possible shower before going home. Provide local exhaust ventilation of not working in open area. Isolate dusty operations such as sawing and sanding to reduce worker exposure.