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## "Understanding Silica Dust and how it affects the work place."

### ***Silica dust and silicosis***

With the boom in construction going on around the lower mainland, we often see construction workers drilling, cutting or grinding into concrete with no respiratory protection.

These workers are at high risk of developing silicosis; a serious lung disease caused by the accumulation of silica dust in the lungs. The scarring of the lungs causes stiffening which will obstruct breathing and cause shortness of breath. This can lead to permanent heart and lung disease.

### ***What is silica dust?***

Silica is the main component in sand and rocks like sandstone and granite. Many workplaces are not aware that common building products such as clay bricks, concrete, tiles and fibro cement products contain silica. Silica dust is usually created when such building products, sandstone or rocks are cut, drilled or worked on in a way that creates fine particles of silica in the air. It is breathing in this crystalline form of silica that causes silicosis.

### ***How to control silica dust at work***

The only effective protection against silicosis is to prevent silica dust in the air. Tools causing dust for example grinders and saws should be fitted with dust extraction devices. Where possible, dusty processes should be fully enclosed and have an exhaust hood attached. Where this is not possible a local ventilation system should be in place with hoses as close as possible to the head of cutting tools.

***Star Diamond Tools carries a complete line of dust control products to promote worker safety and help protect construction workers from silicosis.***

***Call or email us today for more information on our product offerings.***

## About Star Diamond Tools

### ***Innovative Products for Concrete Solutions***

We do more than sell product, we provide solutions. It is our belief that the customer always comes first. We back this up with high quality products and excellent customer service. With many years of experience and the support of our manufacturers, we can provide our customers with proven methods, techniques and products to do their job quickly and efficiently. We build strong working relationships with all of our valued customers, and we welcome you to be part of our family.

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