



[Construction Dust: The Silent Killer - Expert safety advice on the dangers of construction dust](#)

To ensure construction industry workers across the UK are kept safe whilst at work, the UK's leading safety expert, Arco, is continuing its efforts to educate business leaders about the long term dangers of construction dust, by offering free, updated, life-saving advice.

In the UK alone, 23 new cases of work related respiratory diseases are diagnosed every day¹. [\(Read More\)](#)

As active members of the Construction Dust Partnership (CDP), Arco is dedicated to reducing this figure by working with both CDP and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to raise awareness and offer expert guidance for customers.

Those who regularly work on building sites where there is excess dust created from activities such as wall chasing, stone cutting, demolition, drilling or sweeping, are more likely to be at risk from construction dust related respiratory illnesses. These illnesses include lung cancer, asthma and Chronic Obstruction Pulmonary Disease (COPD); however, contracting these illnesses is avoidable with effective preventative measures as well as the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE).

Construction Dust: THE SILENT KILLER

***23 NEW CASES OF WORK RELATED
RESPIRATORY DISEASE DIAGNOSED EVERY DAY**

Protect yourself before it's too late

Dust or fibres enter the body through the nose and mouth (inhaling or drinking)
8,500 new cases of work-related respiratory disease per year

Lungs: Scar tissue forms in the pleural membrane and the lungs are unable to expand and contract. Breathing can become painful or impossible
35,000 workers have reported breathing/lung problems caused or made worse by work

Oesophagus: Cancer can develop from swallowing dust or fibres
Past occupational exposure to carcinogens currently accounts for **1 in 20** cancer deaths in Great Britain

Heart: Blood flow to the lungs can be impaired and cause the heart to enlarge or fail

Stomach / Intestines: Swallowed dust or fibres build up and may cause cancer
The construction industry has the largest burden of occupational cancer, attributing to **3,500** cancer deaths and **5,500** cancer registrations each year

Does this affect me?

If you do these jobs you could be affected

- Wall chasing
- Block and stone cutting
- Movement of rubble during site clearance
- Demolition
- Cutting wood based products
- Grinding and sanding
- Drilling
- Sweeping floors
- Carpentry

How significant is the problem?

1p The amount of silica harmful to the body is tiny compared to a 1p piece

15-20% of the total 5.4 million asthma cases in the UK are work-related

Over 500 construction workers die from exposure to silica dust every year

Every year the number of occupational cancer cases increase by **over 5,000** in the construction sector alone

Your time may be running out. Protect yourself!

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Research in Safety

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<http://www.arco.co.uk/constructiondust>