



Tips and Tricks for FOUNDRY CLEANING

OSHA's silica dust rule has raised the stakes for foundries to keep their facilities free of hazardous dust. These tips and tricks provide guidelines to help you keep your workers safe.

- 1 Know the regulations.** OSHA's silica dust rule is already in enforcement, but that doesn't mean everything is set in stone. The agency continues to refine its guidance. The bottom line is that you need to stay up-to-date on what's happening with the regulation so you can ensure you're in compliance.
- 2 Understand your risks.** If an OSHA inspector sees a dust cloud, they will perform an air quality test. Don't let the results take you by surprise! Do your own air testing throughout your facility so that you can identify your risks and take corrective action.
- 3 Choose a vacuum with a high capacity and use a hopper.** High-capacity vacuums can run for a long time before they need to be emptied. A 1½-yard hopper can also be used to extend the operating time.
- 4 Use a true HEPA filter.** HEPA filtration is required for vacuum cleaners used to collect silica dust. Ensure your equipment has a true HEPA filter that has been individually tested and verified to meet the HEPA standard of 99.97% efficiency at 0.3 microns.

5 Change your filters regularly. Silica dust is hard on your filter. Change your main filter every six months and your HEPA filter once a year.

6 Choose a high-capacity sweeper. Smaller machines may be less expensive, but you'll waste a lot of time stopping to empty the container. A high-capacity sweeper will allow you to clean longer and more efficiently.

7 Go green with battery-powered equipment. Sustainability isn't just a buzzword. It helps companies save money on energy, and in some jurisdictions it's required to comply with green initiatives. Using battery-powered equipment also increases the air quality in your facility.

8 Use water to control dust at the side brooms. While the main broom under the sweeper is vacuumized, the side brooms aren't. Advanced features like Nilfisk's DustGuard™ apply moisture at the side brooms to provide enhanced dust control.



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