

# Hazardous workplace *dust* can be a hidden killer



**Microscopic silica and asbestos dust particles settle deep in the lungs, causing serious illness and death.**

**6 people are diagnosed with a dust disease every week in NSW** from breathing in dust at work, where adequate controls were not in place.\*



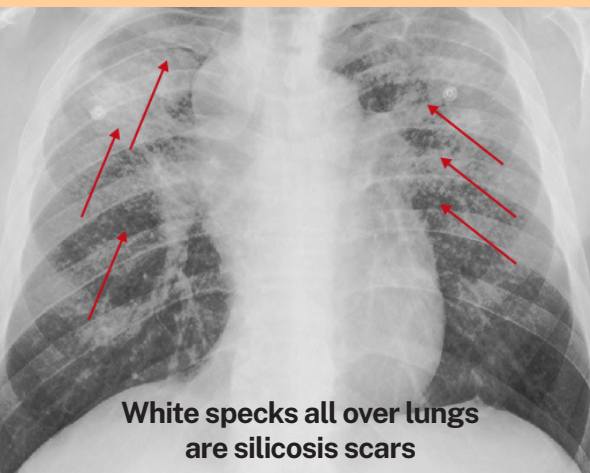
Exposure to harmful dust is preventable.

All dust exposure risks must be controlled:

- ✓ Identify the dust hazard
- ✓ Plan the work
- ✓ Eliminate or reduce dust by using the right equipment
- ✓ Use suitable masks and protective clothing (PPE)
- ✓ Clean up safely and dispose of materials responsibly
- ✓ Have regular lung screening for silica and asbestos damage

## Use the right safety controls for each dust

Safety control	Asbestos	Silica	Wood & other dusts
Substitute materials	✓	✓	✓
Ventilate work area	✗	✓	✓
Negative air pressure (friable asbestos removal)	✓	✗	✗
Wet cut	✗	✓	✗
Dust capture	✓	✓	✓
Masks and PPE	✓	✓	✓
Vacuum class M	✗	✓	✓
Vacuum class H	✓	✓	✓
Wet clean-up	✓	✓	✓
Licensed contractors	✓	✗	✗
Train workers	✓	✓	✓
Air monitoring (mandatory for friable asbestos removal)	✓	✓	✓



**White specks all over lungs are silicosis scars**

\* Includes asbestos, silica and other dusts. In the 2020/2021 financial year, 333 people were diagnosed with a dust disease due to exposure in a NSW workplace (including new cases and deaths). Of these, 295 (89%) were due to asbestos.

Visit [www.safework.nsw.gov.au](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au) or call **13 10 50** for more information