

SILICA IN CONSTRUCTION

What is silica?



One of the most common minerals on Earth



Silica is a naturally occurring mineral found in all parts of the globe.

Silica is found in rock, soil and sand

- Silica is composed of the elements Silicon + Oxygen = SiO_2



Crystalline silica is the hazardous type for construction workers. The most common form is quartz.



Quartz

Crystalline silica is a component of several construction materials you may work with.

Performing tasks such as—cutting, drilling, coring, grinding, sanding, sandblasting, pulverizing, dry mixing, cleaning up— with these materials may create airborne silica dust that can harm your health.

These materials may contain silica

- Asphalt
- Brick
- Cement
- Concrete
- Concrete block
- Drywall
- Fiber cement products (siding, cladding panels)
- Grout
- Guniting/Shotcrete
- Mortar
- Paints
- Plaster
- Refractory Mortar/Castables
- Refractory units
- Rock
- Roof tile (concrete)
- Sand
- Soil (fill dirt, top soil, soil w/fly ash added)
- Stone (granite, limestone, quartzite, sandstone, shale, slate, cultured, etc.)
- Stucco/EIFS
- Terrazzo
- Tile (clay and ceramic)