



Controlling dust when cutting fibre-cement board

Cutting fibre-cement board (e.g., Hardiplank/Weatherboard) without the appropriate controls can expose workers to harmful levels of crystalline silica dust. Breathing in this fine dust can cause a serious and irreversible lung disease called silicosis.

Dust control options

Every effort should be made to use cutting methods that minimize airborne silica dust. Three such methods are:

- Handheld and stationary electric or pneumatic shears
- “Score-and-snap” method (tungsten carbide tipped scoring knife specially designed for this work)
- Circular saw equipped with a dust collector shroud and vacuum system (HEPA filtered) that captures the fine silica dust

Wet methods are not typically used when cutting and shaping fibre-cement board.

To protect yourself you should:

- Use one of the methods described above for cutting fibre-cement board
- Inspect the dust control equipment before you start work and report any problems to your supervisor
- Make sure that the dust control system is minimizing the release of dust – very little dust should be released when these methods are working properly
- Follow safe work procedures when cleaning and/or maintaining the equipment
- Vacuum (HEPA filtered) or wet wipe settled dust from equipment, work, and other surfaces when the work is completed
- Always wear an approved respirator when working around silica dust (the type chosen will depend on the cutting method and dust controls used)
- Wear approved safety glasses when power cutting cement board

Do not use compressed air to blow dust from your clothing or your equipment.



Protected worker cutting fibre-cement board using a circular saw with dust controls



Worker cutting fibre-cement board outdoors, with a hand-held shear



Cutting fibre-cement board with a hand-held shear

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by crew members:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
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15.		

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



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