



**Gypsum Products Development Association**

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## **Technical Guidance Note on Dust**

### **Gypsum Dust**

Gypsum is a safe product to work and live with. It has been in use for over 3000 years and is one of the most well documented and tested of all building materials.

Dust from sawing or sanding can irritate the respiratory system, skin and eyes. When working with plaster or plasterboard, avoid breathing dust.

Crystalline Silica is present in many construction products, such as sandstone, concrete and sand and, in much smaller quantities, occurs naturally in gypsum. When gypsum products are mechanically altered – sawn, drilled or sanded – it can create particles of Crystalline Silica, the smallest of which are termed Respirable Crystalline Silica. If the dust becomes airborne, the tiniest of these RCS particles can be small enough to reach deeply into the lungs and can cause harmful health effects.

It is important to remember:-

- Use in a well ventilated area
- Where practicable use engineering methods to control dust levels and tools with dust extraction
- If the exposure standards could be exceeded, we recommend use of a disposable FFP2 dust mask and other suitable PPE