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# Safe cleaning guide –

## New Vacuum Sweepers Cut Airborne Construction Dusts When Sweeping.

Cleaning up on construction sites is essential in creating a safer working environment. But are you actually increasing occupational health hazards in the process of cleaning by creating airborne construction dusts?



Sweepers



Scrubber-Dryers



Combination Sweeper/  
Scrubber-Dryers



Road Sweepers



Industrial Vacuum  
Cleaners



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Many projects use men and sweep brooms or standard vacuums to clean up on site, which exposes operators and their colleagues to airborne construction dusts.

Regularly breathing these dusts over a long time can cause life changing lung diseases such as Occupational Asthma, Silicosis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and even Lung Cancer.

This guide discusses the potential risks of traditional cleaning methods and provides you with safer alternatives to help you create a safer and cleaner construction site sustainably.

## What's dangerous about dust?

Regularly breathing in even small amounts of construction dust can lead to damage to your lungs and airway. Unfortunately by the time you notice an issue it's often too late.

## Did you know?

There are 3 main types of construction dusts:

### Silica dust:

Created when working with materials like concrete, mortar and sandstone.

### Wood dust:

Created when working with softwood, hardwood and wood based products like MDF and plywood.

### Lower toxicity dusts:

Created when working on materials containing very little or no silica. The most common include plasterboard dusts, limestone, marble and dolomite.



Traditional method

# What are the issues & risks?



Recommended method

# Safer alternatives



### Broom & Dust Mask

Construction dusts are whirled up to become airborne exposing operatives and workers in the area to risk of breathing substances such as silica. Dust masks cease to be effective after a few hours use and should be considered a last line of defence, rather than best practice.



### Standard Vacuum

Sub-micron particles pass through filters on a standard vacuum. Particles are then blown out from the vacuum exhaust into the surrounding area. Once airborne, these particles can be inhaled and reach right into the lungs.



### Men, Brooms & Water

Uneven application of water leaves pockets of dry dust which can then become airborne when sweeping. Operatives and workers are exposed to the risk of breathing substances such as silica.



### M-Class or HEPA Vacuums with Fixed Cleaning Tools

- Recommended by HSE for collecting debris containing silica.
- A minimum filter performance of 99.9%
- Collects debris into Longopac Bag System for easy disposal.
- Covers large floor spaces quickly with the fixed floor tool option. Converts to a mobile vacuum for cleaning edges and ledges.
- Powered by 110v for safe site use. (Also Available in 240v)



### Powered Vacuum Sweepers

- New TRS technology collects fine dust through to bulky debris faster and more efficiently.
- Basic models are 6 times more productive than a man and broom.
- Fine dust is vacuumed through a filter before purified air is exhausted back into the atmosphere.
- Battery powered machines eliminate trip hazards from trailing cables

