



OHCOW

Occupational Health Clinics
for Ontario Workers Inc.

Centres de santé des
travailleurs (ses) de l'Ontario Inc.

Silica Exposure and Lung Cancer

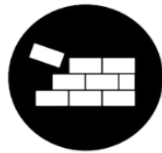
Ontario Silica Control Tool

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Inhalation is most common route of occupational exposure:
 - 429,000 Canadian workers are exposed to silica
 - 153,000 Ontario workers are exposed to silica
- In Ontario, in 2021, the construction industry employed 534,000 people, comprising 7.2% of Ontario's workforce
- Construction is the largest single exposed sector in Ontario, for example:
 - Construction trades helpers/labourers
 - Heavy equipment operators
 - Plasterers, drywallers, plumbers
- ~200 lung cancers per year in Ontario are caused by silica exposure, based on 2011 cancer data (OCRC)
 - 2.5% of all lung cancers diagnosed

WHERE IS SILICA FOUND?

Silica is one of the most common construction worksite hazards.



BRICKS



**GRAVEL/STONE/
ASPHALT**



**CONCRETE/
CEMENT**



MORTAR



GLASS



**SOME TYPES OF
FIBREGLASS**



**ARTIFICIAL
STONE
(e.g. countertops)**



**SOME
ABRASIVES/
CLEANSERS**



GRANITE



**SAND/
FILL DIRT/
TOPSOIL**



CERAMICS



FILLERS

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

SYMPTOMS



**SHORTNESS
OF BREATH**



**SEVERE
COUGHING**



**BODY
WEAKNESS**

ILLNESSES



SILICOSIS
(Pulmonary
Fibrosis)



**LUNG
CANCER**



COPD
(Chronic Obstructive
Pulmonary Disease)

THE SILICA CONTROL TOOL

- Free tool available to Ontario workers.
- Tool data currently curated for construction workers.
- Educate employers and workers.
- Produce effective Exposure Control Plans (ECPs).
- Reduce effort and cost.
- Improve quality of exposure data used in risk assessment.



RESOURCES

- OCRC and CAREX Resources - Burden of Occupational Cancer:
 - [Silica Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Silica in Construction Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Silica in Mining Fact Sheet](#)
- Infrastructure for Health and Safety:
 - [Basics of Silica \(eLearning\)](#)
 - [Episode 69: Silica Exposure in the Workplace](#)
- OHCOW:
 - [Silica Control Tool Webpage](#)
 - [The Ontario Silica Control Tool](#)
 - [Podcasts](#)
 - [Lunch and Learn Session](#)
- [Threads of Life](#)

Breathing in silica dust



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