



## Wood dust

Wood dust is a problem when dust particles from sanding and cutting get into the air. Breathing these particles can cause respiratory problems and lung disease and even cancer.

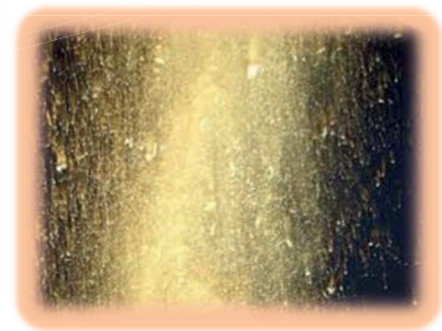


Exposure to wood dust has been known to cause a variety of health effects, including dermatitis, serious respiratory effects and cancer. Contact with the irritant compounds in wood sap can cause dermatitis and other allergic reactions.



In addition to the tiny dust particles of wood produced during sanding and cutting wood dust can also contain bacteria and fungal/moss spores. The amount and type of wood dust will depend on the wood being cut and the machine you are using, for example:

- whether the timber is green or seasoned;
- if you are cutting hardwood, softwood or mixed board
- how rough the machine cutting or blade profile is.



The biggest health risk is from very fine dust, which can be breathed deep into your lungs where it will do the most damage. Fine dust spreads further from the cutting process so it is important to clean workroom surfaces regularly to prevent dust build up.

