



## ARDEX Products and OSHA Silica Standard Housekeeping Guidelines

We are writing to clarify our recommendations for the installation of ARDEX products with consideration to the new OSHA Standard on crystalline silica. For complete information on the new OSHA regulations, visit [www.osha.gov/silica](http://www.osha.gov/silica).

The recommendations detailed below are the result of independent, third-party air quality monitoring tests and are **in accordance with OSHA Silica Standard Housekeeping Guidelines**. Affected technical data sheets will be revised accordingly.

### Concrete preparation

1. **Mechanical preparation** - Shot blast, grind or similar where required.
2. **Vacuum / HEPA filter** - Remove all loose material using a heavy-duty, bucket-style (Shop-Vac®-style) vacuum with a HEPA dust extraction vacuum system complying with OSHA Silica Standard for Construction CFR §1926.1153.
3. **Do not sweep** - Sweeping concrete is no longer recommended.

**Mixing; sanded materials** (self-leveling underlayments and toppings, certain patching materials, certain tile setting materials and engineered concrete repair products)

1. **ARDEX DUSTFREE™ or “gutter hook”** - While mixing, use the ARDEX DUSTFREE™ or a standard “gutter hook” vacuum attachment in combination with a heavy-duty, bucket-style (Shop-Vac®-style) vacuum and HEPA dust extraction vacuum system.
2. **Careful handling** - Handle each bag with care, emptying it in a manner that avoids creating a plume of dust.

**Mixing; no-sand-added materials** (ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®, FORTI FINISH, SD-M, FG-C, etc.)

**No special precautions required** - ARDEX no-sand-added products do contain trace amounts of crystalline silica, which is naturally found in Portland cement and limestone. Exposure monitoring tests for these no-sand-added products detected no respirable crystalline silica under normal use conditions.

**Broadcasting sand / removing excess sand** (for ARDEX MC RAPID, EP 2000, ARDIFIX, etc.)

1. **Broadcasting** - ARDEX recommends wearing an N-95 dust mask when broadcasting sand.
2. **Removal** - ARDEX recommends the following steps for removing excess sand following cure of the underlying material:
  - a. **Do not sweep** - Sweeping is not recommended.
  - b. **Rubber squeegee** - Consolidate excess sand into piles using a rubber squeegee.
  - c. **Shovel** - Shovel piles of sand into barrels.
  - d. **Vacuum** - Vacuum remaining sand using a heavy-duty, bucket-style (Shop-Vac®-style) vacuum and HEPA dust extraction vacuum system.

### ARDEX Polished Concrete Systems (APCS)

1. **Filtered dust-collection system** - Use a dust separator and collection system with HEPA filters connected to the planetary grinder, following the recommendations of the planetary grinder manufacturer.
2. **Vacuum (second worker)** - Remove concrete dust using a portable vacuum with HEPA filters 1) between passes with the floor polisher and 2) when polishing disks are changed.

For questions or more details, please contact ARDEX Environmental Programs Specialist Steven Newbrough at [Steven.Newbrough@ARDEXAmericas.com](mailto:Steven.Newbrough@ARDEXAmericas.com).

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