TOOLBOX TALK

Dust Extraction

The law says you must risk assess your works and justify why you wouldn't be using LEV at all times when generating dust. This means a documented process by a competent person, not just a general statement that says it won't be done. This applies both inside and out.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health 2002



Regulation 7(1) of the above stated regulations states that: *Every employer shall ensure that the exposure of his employees to substances hazardous to health is either prevented or, where this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled.*

Regulation 7(1) places a duty on an employer to protect his employees, therefore, you must ensure that:

- If you provide site employees with tools that are designed with on tool powered extraction, these should be provided with the local exhaust ventilation unit suitable for that tool. You must ensure operatives are instructed how to use and maintain it. The local exhaust ventilation should contain a class M or H unit sufficiently suitable to remove dust particles.
- Respiratory protective equipment suitable for wood dust particles should be used in addition to the on tool extraction. Guidance and information on respiratory protective equipment can be found at http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg53.pdf.
- Those sub-contractors who provide their own tools that are designed with LEV, are using an LEV and know how to use and maintain it.

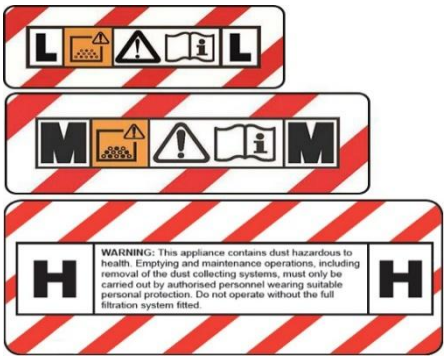




All LEV (including on tool extraction) has 14 monthly thorough examinations and tests. HSE publication: http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg408.pdf provides further detail

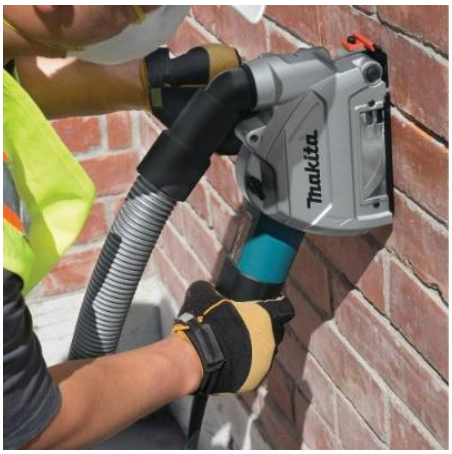
TOOLBOX TALK

Dust Extraction



How to choose on-tool extraction

On-tool extraction is a type of local exhaust ventilation **(LEV)** system which is fitted directly onto the tool. The 'system' consists of several individual parts – the tool, captor hood, extraction unit and tubing. Each part plays a role in establishing how effective the system is and the level of control it gives. Manufacturers/ suppliers do provide complete systems but some parts (especially extraction units) can be used with other tool makes and models



You can use extraction units interchangeably on some tools but the specification of the unit must be suitable for the tool and the task:

- Choose an **H (High)** or **M (Medium) class** unit. These units provide effective and reliable extraction capability and are fitted with low-flow indicators. The units are marked with a special label. Don't just use a HEPA filter in a general commercial vacuum. L (Low) class units are only suitable for lower-toxicity dusts like gypsum in plasterboard.
- Check that the unit creates and maintains enough air suction to cope with the amount of dust the work will create. It needs to remove the dust as fast as it is created
- Lots of fine dust can quickly clog filters. Choose units with pre-filters, built-in 'back-flushing' filter cleaning mechanisms or similar devices
- Think how often the unit will need emptying. Check the waste capacity is right for the work.

Extraction is readily available for a wide variety of tools, even breakers



TOOLBOX TALK

Dust Extraction

Task	Eliminate or limit the dust by:	Control the dust by using:
Drilling with rotary power tools as a 'main activity'	• Limiting the number of holes during design/planning • Using direct fastening or screws	• Where possible on-tool extraction using an H or M Class extraction unit and • RPE (FFP3)
Dry coring	• Limiting the number of holes during design/planning	• On-tool extraction using an H or M Class extraction unit • Longer duration work (ie over 15–30 minutes accumulated time over the day) will also need RPE. Use of an FFP3 mask
Cutting wood with power tools	• Using a less toxic wood • Ordering pre-cut materials • Using dedicated cutting areas to minimise spread	• On-tool extraction using an H or M Class extraction unit • Longer duration work (i.e. over 15–30 minutes accumulated time over the day) will also need RPE† suitable for the wood dust – particularly in enclosed spaces
Sanding wood with power tools	Using a less toxic wood Using 'pre-finished' materials	• On-tool extraction using an H or M Class extraction unit and • RPE suitable for the wood dust in most situations FFP3
Sanding plasterboard jointing	Using other finishes/systems	• On-tool extraction using an H, M, or L Class extraction unit