

Title of Training	HEPA-VACUUM SAFETY TRAINING	
Equipment Info.		
Date of Training		Instructor:

HEPA-VAC SILICA EQUIPMENT TRAINING

Silica is a natural mineral that comes in several forms, some more hazardous than others. Typically, it's the crystalline forms that are of greatest concern. Silica can be present in large quantities in certain types of rocks and sand. Construction materials made from these natural ingredients then become the source of exposure associated with several of the construction trades, such as tile roofs, masonry and concrete finishing or re-finishing.

HEPA Vacuums

EPA defines a HEPA vacuum at 40 CFR 745.83:

- **HEPA vacuum means a vacuum cleaner which has been designed with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter as the last filtration stage. A HEPA filter is a filter that is capable of capturing particles of 0.3 microns with 99.97% efficiency. The vacuum cleaner must be designed so that all the air drawn into the machine is expelled through the HEPA filter with none of the air leaking past it.**

The requirement that all air drawn into the machine is goes through the air filter with no leakage is a tough standard. It gets at the heart of a problem with many vacuums labeled as "HEPA." Putting a HEPA filter in a vacuum does little good if the air bypasses the filter. Over the years, studies indicate that most vacuums would not meet this standard.



HEPA Exhaust Control

HEPA Exhaust Control is required for high-speed paint removal: 40 CFR 745.85(a)(3) states that "The use of machines that remove lead-based paint through high speed operation such as sanding, grinding, power planing, needle gun, abrasive blasting, or sandblasting, is prohibited unless such machines are used with HEPA exhaust control."

EPA does not define the term "HEPA Exhaust Control." Presumably, it would be a HEPA Vacuum with enough capacity to collect all of the debris and dust caused by the use of the machine.

Using a HEPA Vacuum

Cleaning: If the filter (either the HEPA filter or the pre-filters) gets loaded down with dust and debris, the HEPA vacuum will not move enough air to collect lead dust and lead debris from the renovation. The renovator must periodically clean

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the vacuum and replace the pre-filter and the HEPA filter (depending on the design).

Sealing: Before turning off a HEPA vacuum, either covers the end of the air intake home with tape or bag the beater bar. If you don't do this, the dust and debris in the hose will fall out and re-contaminate the workplace or be released in the truck or someone else's home. When you need to use the vacuum, turn the vacuum on and then remove the tape or bag. Remember, when the unit is turned off, the air intake openings must be sealed.

Training:

Brieser Trainer's should consider the following:

- Consider adding a demonstration about HEPA vacuum cleaning to the training. Allow the employee to open up a HEPA vacuum and see how it works.
- Consider having the employee bring their new unused HEPA vacuums into class so you can help them during breaks or lunch. Make sure it has not been used and contaminated with lead.
- Watch the employee during hands-on exercises to make sure they seal up the vacuum when it is turned off. If they forget, dump the debris and dust on the cleaned-up workplace for a great visual and have them re-clean.

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EMPLOYEE NAME (Print or Type)	EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE	TRADE	JOB TITLE
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