

Silica

An Oregon OSHA
pocket reference



What are forms of silica?

- Crystalline silica
- Quartz
- Cristobalite
- Tridymite
- Sand, silica sand
- Silica flour
- Coesite (silicon dioxide)
- Tripoli



1

Where is silica found?

- Red and Green Diamond abrasive blasting materials
- Limestone
- Diatomaceous earth, calcined
- Concrete, Portland cement
- Sand
- Feldspar
- Clay
- Mica
- Talc
- Slate and shale
- Bentonite clays



2

Where can exposures occur?

- Chipping, hammering, and drilling of rock, concrete, and masonry
- Crushing, loading, hauling, and dumping of rock
- Concrete mixing
- Brick or concrete block or slab cutting
- Abrasive blasting using an abrasive-containing silica or sand
- Abrasive blasting of or on concrete (regardless of abrasive material used)
- Demolition of concrete and masonry structures
- Dry sweeping or pressurized air blowing of concrete, rock, or sand
- Preparation of tombstones
- Etching and frosting of glass
- Onion, potato, and ornamental bulb harvesting, washing, and bagging operations



3

What is made with silica?

- Glass
- Clay refractories
- Asphalt paving materials
- Cut stone and stone products
- Pottery and ceramic products
- Abrasives and abrasive products
- Paint and rubber (where powdered silica flour is used)
- Food and beverage preparation (where calcined diatomaceous earth is used as a filtering medium)



4