



## Cement and Concrete

### Potential hazards for workers in concrete manufacturing include:

- Eye, skin and respiratory tract irritation from exposure to cement dust
- Back injuries
- Inadequate safety guards on equipment
- Inadequate lockout/tag-out systems on machinery
- Overexertion and awkward postures
- Slips, trips and falls
- Chemical burns from wet concrete

### Health Hazards

- Prevent burns or skin and eye irritation by avoiding contact with cement dust or wet cement.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, boots, goggles or High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter respirators.
- Avoid dusty areas and wet down work areas, as appropriate, to reduce or eliminate dust.
- Use special HEPA vacuums instead of dry sweeping to clean up dust.
- Avoid exposure to cement dust to prevent bronchitis and silicosis.

### Physical Hazards

- Avoid hearing loss caused by equipment operations. Follow an established noise control program; use hearing protection equipment.
- Prevent injuries through machine guarding and lockout/tag-out procedures.
- Follow established confined-space entry program during the cleaning of the inside of mixer drums and other confined spaces.

## Cement Dust - Common Hazards/Solutions

### Hazards:

Exposure to cement dust can irritate eyes, nose, throat and the upper respiratory system. Skin contact may result in moderate irritation to thickening/cracking of skin to severe skin damage from chemical burns. Silica exposure can lead to lung injuries including silicosis and lung cancer.

### Solutions:

- If you get cement dust in your eyes, rinse them with water immediately and then see a doctor.
- Use soap and water to wash off cement dust to avoid skin damage.
- Eat and drink in dust-free areas to avoid ingesting cement dust.

## Wet Concrete - Common Hazards/Solutions

### Hazards:

Exposure to concrete can cause skin irritation or first-, second- or third-degree chemical burns. Be aware that compounds such as hexavalent chromium may also be present and pose significant health hazards.

### Solutions:

- Wear alkali-resistant gloves, coveralls with long sleeves and full-length pants, waterproof boots and eye protection.
- Wash contaminated skin areas with cold, running water as soon as possible.
- Rinse eyes splashed with wet concrete with water for at least 15 minutes and then go to the hospital for further treatment.

Source: Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

---

**Founded in 1925, CopperPoint Insurance Companies is a western-based super regional commercial insurance company and a leading provider of workers' compensation and commercial insurance solutions.** With an expanded line of insurance products and a growing 10 state footprint in the western United States, CopperPoint is in a strong position to meet the evolving needs of our brokers, agents and customers.

The company has \$4.8 billion in total assets and an enterprise surplus of \$1.4 billion. The CopperPoint Family of Insurance Companies include CopperPoint, Alaska National and PacificComp. All companies are rated A (Excellent) by AM Best.