

Stop the spread of take-home toxins

Workplace hazards shouldn't come home

Workers can unknowingly bring home hazardous substances on their clothes, shoes, skin, tools and vehicle interiors. These hazardous substances are known as "take-home toxins."

Family members are vulnerable to these toxins, which can embed themselves in furniture and laundry, circulate through household air and be transmitted by person-to-person contact.

Safework Australia, and the State and Territory safety authorities have developed standards and guidelines for preventing take-home toxin occurrences.

The risks of take-home toxin exposure

Health impacts from bringing workplace hazards into the home can be temporary or permanent. In some cases, physical symptoms may arise many years after initial exposure. Some of these hazards include:

- Animal waste
- Arsenic
- Asbestos
- Beryllium
- Cadmium
- Coal dust
- DPM (Diesel Particulate Matter)
- Fibreglass
- Infectious agents
- Lead
- Pesticides
- Silica

Keep workplace toxins where they belong

Employers can help prevent the spread of take-home toxins by choosing the right protective garments for employees, and ensuring they also don and doff them on-site.

Employers in many industries trust protective garments made with DuPont™ Tyvek®, which provide the following critical attributes:

- Soft and Lightweight
- High Particulate Holdout
- Chemically and Biologically Inert
- Durable
- Low Linting
- Gamma Stable

Tyvek® provides a barrier which extends throughout the fabric and helps provide excellent protection against particles in the 1–2 micron range. By contrast, spunbonded polypropylene fabric is a poor barrier against this particle size range.

Tyvek® 500 Xpert coveralls provide superior protection against hazardous fine particles by allowing only 1% inward leakage. This is 15 times better than the EN 13982-1 Type 5 Standard which allows up to 15% inward leakage.

Tyvek® comfort-fit design improves worker mobility and makes garments easier to put on and take off. Available garments include coveralls, as well as a variety of accessories, such as hoods, sleeves and slip-resistant shoe covers and boot covers.



Asbestos

Prolonged exposure can cause asbestosis, mesothelioma and other asbestos-related injuries.

Industries

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Shipbuilding
- Thermal insulation
- Farming
- Roofing
- Remediation



Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)

Short-term exposure of high concentrations of diesel exhaust can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs and cause dizziness, coughing, and nausea. Long term exposure may result in an increase in the risk of lung cancer.

Industries

- Mining
- Construction
- Oil and Gas
- Farming
- Manufacturing
- Transportation



Lead

Lead ingestion can cause physical and mental development problems in children. Can be fatal in high doses.

Industries

- Mining
- Smelting
- Remediation
- Renovation
- Transportation
- Manufacturing



Silica

Exposure to respirable silica dust can lead to health risks including silicosis, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and renal disease.

Industries

- Stone Benchtop Fabrication
- Concrete Cutting
- Remediation
- Mining
- Oil and Gas
- Construction
- Manufacturing



Coal Dust

Coal dust causes various pulmonary diseases, including coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). These lung diseases can lead to impairment, disability and premature death.

Industries

- Mining
- Rail Transportation
- Electricity Generation
- Metal Manufacturing
- Cement Production



Pesticides

Studies have confirmed associations between early-life exposure to pesticides and pediatric cancers, impaired cognitive function and behavioral issues.

Industries

- Agriculture
- Pest control



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