

## COSHH Guidance

# Dusts

### Hazards

- ▶ Dust
- ▶ Fibres
- ▶ Flour

### How they could cause harm

- ▶ **Contact** – through the skin or eyes
- ▶ **Inhalation** – breathing in fumes or vapours

### Risks

- ▶ Nose, throat and eye irritation
- ▶ Allergic reaction
- ▶ Skin irritation, dermatitis
- ▶ Respiratory irritation, breathing problems

### Control measures

- ▶ Take care when wiping up dusts and fibres
- ▶ Try not to raise dusts
- ▶ PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) – gloves, aprons and eye protection should be worn (where required)

### Line manager's responsibilities

#### Training & Supervision

- ▶ Provide supervision and training – ensure that safe work practices are followed
- ▶ Inform workers of any risks that may be present
- ▶ Risk and COSHH assessments should be made available to staff working with hazardous substances

#### Health Surveillance

- ▶ Explain the early signs of dermatitis
- ▶ Instruct staff to
  - conduct skin checks for dermatitis and be aware of their own health
  - are they having breathing difficulties

Health surveillance with Occupational Health supplier may be required if exposure to hazardous substances is ongoing or ill health effects are noted.