

CLEAR THE AIR

PROTECTING WORKERS FROM HARMFUL RESPIRATORY HAZARDS: CANNABIS DUST

A Guide for Cannabis Producers and Processors

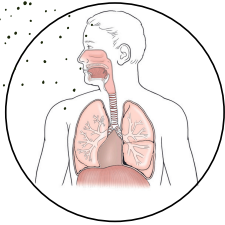


Hazard Alert

Breathing in cannabis dust and other airborne particles is a serious hazard in the cannabis industry. Protecting your lungs with the right safety measures is key to staying healthy on the job.

What is cannabis dust?

Cannabis dust is a fine powder created when dried cannabis buds are handled and ground. It includes small particles from the ground-up flowers, tiny crystal-like hairs (called keif), and organic compounds like terpenes, which are responsible for the strong smell. Cannabis dust can be a health risk when breathed in, especially in workplaces.



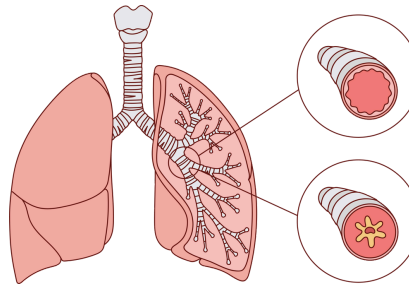
How does cannabis dust impact health?

When cannabis is produced, tasks like trimming, pre-roll manufacturing, sorting and grinding cannabis flower create cannabis dust. This dust, which can be breathed in, contains organic particles that can irritate the lungs. Breathing in cannabis dust can cause symptoms like coughing, a tight chest, shortness of breath, and irritation or inflammation in the lungs.

Respiratory Health Risks

Inhalation of cannabis dust can lead to a variety of respiratory issues, including:

- Allergic reactions
- Reduced lung function
- Chronic respiratory issues
- Asthma attacks



Normal airway

- Normal airway wall
- Relaxed airway smooth muscle

Constricted airway

- Mucus hypersecretion
- Thickened and inflamed airway wall
- Tightened airway smooth muscle

How do I know if I am at risk?

Workers with pre-existing conditions, such as asthma, are especially at risk. Individuals may develop allergies to cannabis dust, which can lead to serious lung problems or potentially fatal asthma attacks. Workers who develop asthma or breathing issues due to cannabis dust exposure may need to leave the industry to prevent further health complications. If you experience a chronic cough or difficulty breathing, consult your doctor.



Sneezing



Coughing



Difficulty
breathing

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How Can Respiratory Hazards Be Reduced?

The best way to prevent exposure to cannabis dust is to collect it at the source. Low-cost solutions can be implemented to capture emissions from the shaker box system that is commonly used to sort and separate the cannabis flower.

Dust Control System for Cannabis Production

Here is one low-cost solution to capture dust from processes including sorting and grinding flower, and packing pre-roll joints.



1

CAPTURE

A plastic container encloses the knockbox, sifter, or grinder.

2

TRANSPORT

Shopvac draws air through the air filtration system.

3

FILTRATION

HEPA and charcoal filters will be used to filter the air drawn through the air filtration system.

4

EXHAUST

The cleaned air can be released back into the room or outdoors.

