

# Safety With Soil Fines

The smallest particles can prove deadly, so take precautions to keep yourself safe



Fines particles, smaller than 75  $\mu\text{m}$  are dangerous. Fines smaller than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  can prove deadly. The following four safety tips can help reduce the dangers of working with these materials:

## 1. Use Proper Personal Protective Equipment

- Use masks for work with an inhalation risk
- Wear gloves when handling toxic material

## 2. Use Proper Transportation Strategies

- Take caution when moving fines, as when dropped, fines can enter the air and be inhaled
- Pouring fines too quickly can also lead to airborne particles

## 3. Create Detailed Safety Plans

- Know the procedures for mitigating risks in experiments
- Avoid unnecessary risks
- Understand possible routes of harmful exposure before starting work

## 4. Use the “Buddy System”

- Handling hazardous materials alone in the lab increases health risks
- Working with at least one other individual increases the likelihood of obtaining help in emergency events.



For more information, contact your lab administrator

image: [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.123rf.com%2Fphoto\\_130271380\\_pictures-of-fine-soil.html&psig=AOvVaw1tATOdNt\\_M74oFlkiEI900&ust=1727378006832000&source=images&c-](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.123rf.com%2Fphoto_130271380_pictures-of-fine-soil.html&psig=AOvVaw1tATOdNt_M74oFlkiEI900&ust=1727378006832000&source=images&c-)