

Dust Hazards

Wood dust is bad for you, especially if you have any respiratory problems. The fine dust is the most dangerous and the most difficult to get rid of. The particles that cause most harm are the very small ones and are so small as to be invisible. They can remain suspended in the air for hours and are hard to see even in a beam of sunlight. So what can you do to protect yourself?

(1) Develop your skill with the gouges and chisels. Turning wood with sharp cutting tools does not produce so much dust as scraping and sanding. So it is healthier to get the best finish from your tools rather than depend on heavy sanding. You could also try to turn wet or unseasoned wood if the project allows it. "Wet" sanding is worth a try.

(2) Use a dust extractor. External filter bag machines are widely available. These are generally the best bet for woodturners because they give more airflow than drum type "wet&dry" vacs and will consequently take more dust away from the lathe. Ones with induction motors are quieter than the drum type machines. Ideally you will need a two horsepower machine and large bags to accommodate the high volume of chippings and dust generated by a lathe. Even then a percentage of dust will escape because you cannot get the nozzle close enough to the work area.

Drum type extractors have better filtration and stronger suction - more suitable for machines such as saws and planers. They are more compact and cheaper. They have reduced airflow so it is very important to rig up some kind of curved nozzle to get close to the work area or most of the dust will escape. They have smaller capacity filters which can clog quickly and the high speed motors are noisy but if you want to extract dust from other woodworking machines as well as a lathe this type can be the right choice.

(3) Because extractors are never 100% effective you will need additional protection such as an air cleaner which slowly filters out fine suspended dust and a mask or respirator to protect your lungs while you are waiting for the air cleaner to do it's work.

(4) Use a powered respirator like the Trend Airshield. Even if you use an extractor you will also need a good mask/respirator because it is impractical to surround the lathe with a close fitting cowl and much of the dust will escape. If you don't mind sweeping up shavings and wiping settled dust off surfaces a respirator is all you need for personal protection. The visor provides excellent eye and face protection as a bonus. Powered respirators can, in the long run, be cheaper than regular use of disposable masks and are much more comfortable. They can be used if you have a beard or glasses, they are quiet and they take little space in the workshop. If you can only afford one unit buy a respirator instead of a dust extractor.

Record and Camvac dust extractors in stock or available to order.

Trend Airshields and spares are usually in stock.

Please ask for our current machinery list for up to date details or give us a ring. See our website for more dust extraction information.

Safety tips

Spin the wood to check for obstructions before switching on

On variable speed lathes start new projects on low speed

Remove ties, loose clothing etc and tie up long hair

Wear face and lung protection not just eye protection

Fit a good smoke alarm in your workshop roof. Do not let heaters clog up with dust. Keep grinders clear of dust accumulation.

Trend Airshield Pro Respirator

✓ Quiet light, comfortable, self contained - the practical solution for woodturners.

✓ Excellent Lung, eye and face protection.

✓ Never mists up your spectacles

✓ Gives better protection against dust than a "chip extractor", is also much quieter and takes less workshop space.

✓ Strong polycarbonate flip up visor.

✓ Supplied with 8 hour battery and charger.

✓ Can take ear defenders

✓ Keeps your hair dust free

Price Includes Airshield, charger, battery, visor overlay and airflow indicator.

Specification. Weight 995 gm, Double filter, flow rate 160 l/min. minimum, battery life 8 hours, respiratory approval BS EN12941 – Class THP2. Eye protection BS EN166.

Optional extras. Extra battery (8 hour) **£36.80**. Visor overlays - protects against solvents **£14.38** for ten. Pair of main filters **£23.00**.



£195-00



Spares for MK1 Airshield

Main filter **£12.65** each, Pre filter pack of three **£8.63**, Visor overlays ten for **£14.38**, Battery **£14.38**, Face Seal **£10.35**
Spare visor **£16.68**.



Face Shield (flip-up)

Very light and comfortable providing full face impact protection to BS2092 Grade 2C. Fully adjustable for fit. Highly recommended.

Flip-up Face Shield OFS £14.20

Spare visor (clips on) **OFS2 £6.90**

Robert Sorby Smocks

Good quality comfortable smocks for woodturners. Easily washed durable polyester cotton with zip front and elasticated neck and cuffs. Maroon colour with Robert Sorby Logo. Sizes available are medium, large, extra large and extra extra large. If in doubt state chest size. Too large is better than too small for freedom of movement and the ability to accept that thick woolley pulley!
All sizes same price.



£35.50

Dust Mask. Moldex Metric 2365

professional duty, Conforms to EN149 FFP1.

Ordinary masks soon get sweaty and uncomfortable and leakage round the nose can cause your specs to mist up. This mask has a special valve which opens on exhalation so it stays more comfortable. The valve gives easier breathing and it prevents air blowing up past your nose - no more misted-up spectacles! Our most popular disposable mask.



Masks £1.95 each.
Ten for £17.55