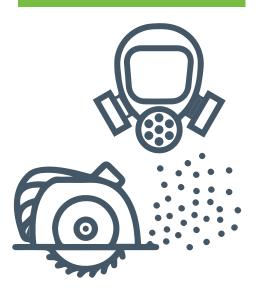
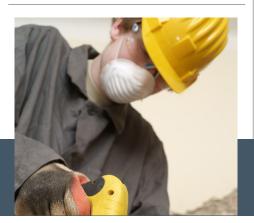


## WOODWORKERS TOOLBOX TALK

# EXPOSURE TO AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS



Many woodworking tasks produce very fine dust particles or gases, which get into the air. Breathing in the affected air can make you sick, or damage your lungs. You may notice this right away, or it could be years before you begin experiencing difficulty breathing.



#### SAFETY TIPS

- 1. Use a **respirator** when doing work that requires one.
- Make sure you are trained in using a respirator, and follow the written work procedure when you use it.
- **3.** Make sure you're using the right respirator for the job.
- 4. Make sure the respirator fits you. If the respirator has a face piece (mask) that seals to your face, you must be clean-shaven.
- 5. If your respirator has a cartridge, check that it is the correct cartridge, and that you're using it correctly.

#### SAFETY **ALERT**

Let your instructor, supervisor or manager know if you have a breathing problem or claustrophobia that would prevent you from using a respirator.

**Respiratory Programs** are required for workplaces that may have hazardous air conditions. They require the identification of proper breathing apparatuses (respirators), as well as supplying those respirators, fitting them, and training employees on how to use them correctly.

**Respirators** are personal protective equipment that when properly used, will safely allow you to breathe in hazardous air conditions.

### **EXAMPLES OF HAZARDS**

- · Dust particles from cutting wood
- · Vapours from solvents

If there is a hazard of airborne material in your workplace, your employer is required by regulation to do a formal risk assessment and, if necessary, have a **respirator program**, including written work procedures.

Adapted with permission from WorkSafeBC.

