



## Combustible Dust

Combustible dust is any material that can quickly ignite when it is in dust form. Combustible dust is a known cause of many factory explosions that occur when maintenance and cleaning are not performed properly. Explosions can happen when enough combustible dust builds up in one area, where it can easily catch fire and spread. This can be avoided with routine inspections of workplace cleanliness. Learn more about combustible dust and how to avoid buildup, so you can help keep your workspaces clean and safe.



### Keep Workspaces Clean

- It only takes 1/32 of an inch of dust accumulation to ignite and cause an explosion.
- Any workplace that produces materials that can create dust should have housekeeping procedures in place.
- Cleaning should be performed thoroughly and regularly, especially on surfaces that collect dust.
- To more thoroughly remove dust from surfaces, vacuuming and mopping are preferred methods over dry sweeping.

### Materials That Become Explosible in Dust Form:

- |            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| • Food     | • Rubber          |
| • Grain    | • Pesticides      |
| • Tobacco  | • Pharmaceuticals |
| • Plastics | • Dyes            |
| • Wood     | • Coal            |
| • Paper    | • Metals          |

### Resources

[OSHA: Combustible Dust](#)

[A Challenging Issue for Safety Professionals](#)

[11 Tips for Effective Workplace Housekeeping](#)

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**Don't learn safety by accident**