

YOUR #CLEANTHEUNSEEN ACTION PLAN

WORKERS

**YOU'VE MADE AN
IMPORTANT STEP.
THANK YOU FOR BEING
AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT
OF #CLEANTHEUNSEEN**

We believe that with the right information and awareness of the importance of clean workplace air millions of people across the UK can have their working lives improved.

To help you on the journey to a safer workplace, we've set out the below steps to equip you with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to raise this vital issue at work.

IDENTIFY IF YOU ARE IN HIGHER RISK EMPLOYMENT

The first step is to identify whether your type of employment has a higher likelihood of harmful dust, pollutant, and allergen exposure*.

COMMONLY ASSOCIATED EMPLOYMENT TYPES INCLUDE:

Engineering & Manufacturing

Logistics & Cardboard

Motor Vehicle Repair

Baking

Oil & Gas

Agriculture

Welding

Printing

Cleaning

Woodworking

Recycling

Beauty & Hair

*You can find out more specific advice on how hazardous substances affect your specific industry on the **HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE'S WEBSITE**.

LEARN HOW POLLUTED AIR AFFECTS YOU

Second comes understanding. It's important you are familiar with why clean air is so important and how polluted air affects you and your peers' health. You don't have to know everything, just the top line take-aways.

Respiratory issues

Exacerbates preexisting conditions

Pregnancy complications

Cardiovascular stress

Cancer

Allergies

Decreased lung function

Neurological impairment

Mental health issues

Check our **HEALTH FACTS PAGE** for more information.

ASSESS WHETHER DUST IS A PROBLEM

The **10 SIGNS YOUR WORKPLACE AIR IS FAILING YOU** are simple indicators that dust may be a problem in your workplace. Beyond these tests, there are several straightforward questions you can ask which may tell you more needs to be done or at least warrant further investigation.

PROCESSES:

1 Are there any processes that require employees to wear masks/respiratory protection?

YES / NO

2 Are you using any new materials or processes which are worsening dust, fume, vapours etc.?

YES / NO

3 Do you have air quality (AQ) testing done within your facility?

YES / NO

4 When was the last time AQ testing was conducted & what were the results?

[INSERT ANSWER]

5 Is there anyone in your workplace who is specifically responsible for AQ?

YES / NO

6 How often do you have to conduct regular cleaning at work to remove dust and dirt?

EVERY DAY / ONCE A WEEK

7 How often do you have to deal with product quality issues, such as returns or rejections, due to contamination?

NEVER / SOMETIMES / OFTEN

8 Are there eye-wash stations positioned around site?

YES / NO

9 Is air quality a thing that the business has already said that it wants to improve?

YES / NO

ASSESS CONTINUED

SIDE EFFECTS:

10 Has anyone else made complaints about dust and pollutants?

YES / NO

11 How frequently are you having to take sick leave?

ONCE A MONTH / ONCE EVERY 6 MONTHS / ONCE A YEAR

12 Have you or your partner or people close to you noticed an increase in dirt or odour on you?

YES / NO

13 When you blow your nose after work, do you see black spots?

YES / NO

14 Have you or any of your colleagues had a history or new illness from work i.e. COPD?

YES / NO

15 Do you see any area of site that clearly has residual dust/powder on the floor or around machines despite cleaning regimes?

YES / NO

INFORM AND APPROACH YOUR EMPLOYER

Having run through this checklist, do you feel you have a serious air quality problem at work? If so, this section will tell you what to do.

It can feel intimidating to approach your manager, boss, or employer about air quality standards. However, feel confident that improving air quality at work is a net positive for you, your peers, and your employer.

Keep the following in mind:

1 CONSTRUCTIVE CONCERNS

Position concerns as readily addressable and having positive outcomes.

2 USE EXAMPLES

Frame your assessments as helpful and proactive evidence.

3 2-WAY COMMUNICATION

Give them space and time to explain any measures already in place.

4 EXPLAIN THE BENEFITS

Use our 10 reasons why clean air is good for business as additional motivators

5 PROVIDE NEXT STEPS

Share with them our employers action plan PDF, downloadable [HERE](#).