



# ADVICE FROM THE INDUSTRY EXPERTS



## Dust-free your health: Business benefits from occupational health

# MIRKA

Mirka is the renowned pioneer of dust-free sanding solutions, and we have succeeded in what many others have attempted to do. Mirka's journey in dust-free sanding started over 20 years ago. Our revolutionary net abrasive, the Mirka

Abranet® was the start of a new dust-free philosophy that expanded to cover new abrasives and power tools, all for one purpose: to make sanding better.

### Healthy employees

Healthy employees who work in a clean and ergonomic environment are more likely to do their job efficiently and safely. Exposure to wood dust has been associated with health issues due to the natural chemicals in the wood. There could also be some substances in the wood such as bacteria or moulds. "Using dustless tools and creating clean environment for the employees avoids many health risks. We know that the wood dust can cause many potential health risks such as irritation of the eyes, nose and throat and wood dust is considered carcinogenic to humans according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)" George Varagic. Recognizing environmental hazards and associated severe health risks is the first step in improving the working conditions, health, efficiency, and work motivation of your employees.

- ✓ **Healthy working environment:** no airborne or residual dust during or after project to be worried about
- ✓ **Multitasking:** multiple phases of the project can be undertaken in the same room without risk of dust contamination
- ✓ **Improved quality:** the quality of work is usually improved since dust is removed before next working phase
- ✓ **Faster project turnaround:** since the cleaning time during and after project decreases, the whole process is faster



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“It is also important to speak with employees regarding these health hazards. They can often provide important information about dust sources and how they can be eliminated” George Varagic.



## Customer testimonial

### Kauhavan Puutyö

For over 30 years, Kauhavan Puutyö has been proudly manufacturing and reconstructing workbenches for schools, industrial factories and hardware stores.

“

We use a lot of hard wood such as Finnish birch which tends to produce more harmful fine dust. That is why it is essential to do everything we can to help keep our workplace dust-free. We have been using Mirka products since the very beginning and have noticed the difference in the level of dust.

No flying dust ensures that we meet the legislation for occupational safety, allowing us to work more efficiently with better end results. Besides, a dust-free environment is good for your health.

”

## Dust and you

**Dust is one of the basic health and occupational hazard factors.**

Wood dust is created during all stages of wood processing such as sawing, routing, sanding and other operations. Workers can also be exposed when the dust becomes airborne such as when removing dust from furniture, maintenance activities, or when cleaning equipment (e.g., emptying the bag from a dust extraction system or vacuum). Sanding paint and filler material creates a lot of fine dust that is easily inhaled and can cause skin, eye and upper respiratory tract irritation. The smaller the particle, the more likely it will penetrate into the lungs.



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## Statistics

Particles found in the air, such as dust:



**10 microns**  
Small enough to be inhaled



**2.5 microns**  
Small enough to reach deepest parts of lungs

Mirka Dust-free solutions are

**97.97%**

effective at removing particles smaller than 0.3µm in size.\*



## The secret to becoming more efficient

We are all searching for the best way to boost productivity. Traditionally, efficiency relates to how much you get out in relation to what you put in, for example how can we ensure our employees are able work faster and do more in a shorter period of time. Efficiency can be much more than that. Improving efficiency is all about working smarter. Improving work efficiency and reducing the risk of costly errors, is possible when the right type of equipment is being used. Choosing a dust-free solution is the key -to problem. Undeniable benefits of dust-free sanding:

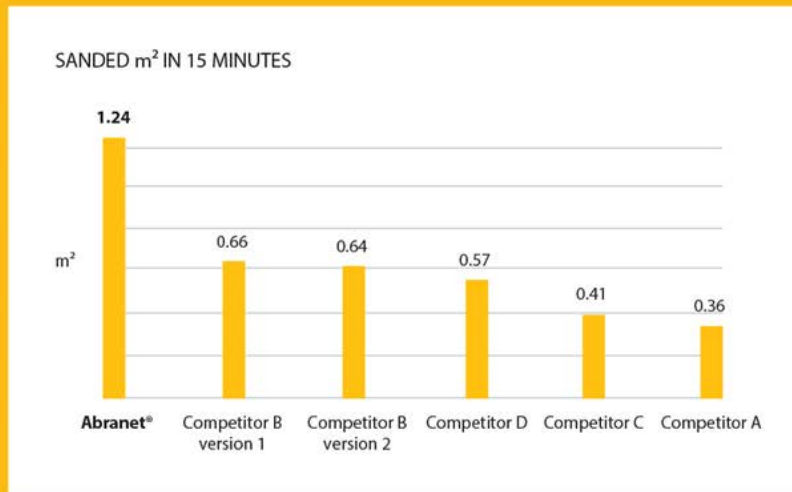
- Clean and healthy working environment
- Fast sanding process
- Less consumption of abrasives
- Improved quality of work
- Less rework
- More dedicated employees

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## Statistics

### Mirka - Tested for efficiency

When dust is removed from the space between the abrasives and the sanded surface, the abrasive grains are cutting the surface more efficiently.



## Myths and facts about dust

**Myth:** *Dust is not harmful if the surfaces are cleaned often enough!*

**Truth:** The most dangerous dust is so-called invisible dust that can stay airborne for a long time, building up in the lungs.

**Myth:** *All the dust is the same!*

**Truth:** There are differences between types of dust. For example, paint residue can be highly toxic and dust from hard wood is extremely harmful IF inhaled for long periods of time.

**Myth:** *Dust-free tools remove the need for protective gear.*

**Truth:** Even though Mirka's dust-free solution removes almost all dust from the air, protective gear should always be used to protect your health.

**Myth:** *Any sanding paper works with dust-free power tools and extractors.*

**Truth:** Yes and no. It's possible to use any paper, but to get the full dust-free result, net-like abrasives must be used.

**Myth:** *Dust-free equipment doesn't require maintenance.*

**Truth:** To maintain dust-free performance, filters, dust bags and abrasives for a dust-free solution should be replaced regularly.