



Ibstock Brick team up with Tennant for a cleaner, safer site against silica dust

Case study

BACKGROUND

Ibstock Brick is the UK's largest manufacturer of clay products, leading the sector with a history of over 200 years of producing handmade bricks. It employs over 2000 people spread across 25 locations throughout the UK, and most have associated quarrying operations at or near to them.

To meet the increasing demand for bricks, Ibstock Brick has extended their manufacturing capability with a new site in Coalville, Leicestershire.

This new factory can produce 100 million bricks per year, which, coupled with the existing manufacturing capabilities, means 190 million bricks per annum in total. As to say, an amount equivalent to around 28,000 new homes per year.

CHALLENGE

Silica is a natural substance found in materials common on construction sites, like concrete, rocks, and sand. The dust created by cutting, grinding, or drilling concrete products can contain respirable crystalline silica, which is a silent but serious hazard in construction and manufacturing environments.

Prolonged exposure to respirable crystalline silica can lead to irreversible lung damage, making dust control a critical issue for industrial employers.

The key to preventing silica exposure is to keep silica dust out of the air. That's a tall order for giant manufacturing sites like Ibstock Brick. Former methods like broom sweeping are neither efficient nor effective to safeguard air quality and worker health. That's when Ibstock turned to Tennant.



SOLUTION

Working closely with Tennant's experts, Ibstock Brick trialled the S20 Compact Ride-On Sweeper—a versatile and durable mid-sized industrial machine with a three-stage primary filter system, that had been fitted with an optional HEPA 4th-stage dust filter.

“HEPA filtration gives our customers the ability to capture even the finest dust particles, significantly reducing airborne contaminants,” explains Jon Collett, Tennant’s National Account Manager.

Designed for tough, dust-intensive settings, the S20 offers advanced technology that ensures cleaner air, longer uptime, and greater operator comfort.

Based on the Ibstock Bricks testing, the HEPA filter could last between six months to one year depending on application—offering a sustainable and high-performance solution to dust control.

Of course, proper usage and maintenance practices will help increase the effectiveness of the machine's filtration stages and the life of the HEPA filter.

This combination of durability, filtration precision, and ease of use made the S20 a natural fit for Ibstock's evolving housekeeping strategy.



RESULTS

Ibstock Brick achieved outstanding improvements in site cleanliness and air quality after the deployment of the S20, and these efforts culminated in the Industry Pledge Award for best practices in dust control assigned to Ibstock Brick's new Eclipse site.

Ibstock Brick's collaboration with Tennant showcases how investing in the right cleaning technology is not just about compliance—it's about creating a safer, more productive workplace. Through innovation, cooperation, and commitment to best practice, Ibstock has set a new benchmark for health and safety in heavy manufacturing.

“Tennant equipment helped us gain the Industry Pledge Award for measures to control dust within a factory in December 2018, which is something that we are very proud of and would not have achieved without the Tennant machines that we have on site.”

*Michael Caughey –
Senior Production Manager, Ibstock Eclipse*



“Without the Tennant machines, we would not be able to keep the site clean and safe. The S20 and T20 [...] are easy to use and do a great job helping us keep the dust levels low on site [...].”

*Mike Wardle –
Hygiene and Cleaning Supervisor, Ibstock Eclipse*

