



Safety First

Sandblasting

Sandblasting is fun but it can be hazardous. A few simple precautions can easily avoid any hazards.

Glass dust

When you blast glass you create fine glass dust as bits of glass are blasted away. Some artisans consider glass dust is just a nuisance dust but you should take care to avoid breathing it in. If you are not blasting in an enclosed sealed cabinet, wear a respirator.

Silica dust

If you blast with sand you create fine silica dust from the sand. If inhaled, this is a very serious hazard. Wear a respirator and try to be sure it has NIOSH approval..

Abrasive dust

Aluminum oxide and silicon carbide are nuisance dusts and not a serious hazard. If you're blasting in a sealed cabinet, nothing is needed. If you're blasting outdoors or in a blasting room, wear a mask or respirator.

Protective gear

Unless you are blasting in a cabinet, wear protective gear to cover all exposed flesh. If the jet of abrasive materials can cut through glass or metal, imagine what it can do to your skin. Try not to find out.

Vacuum

Sandblasting creates dust. Some kind of vacuum system is essential to draw dust away or you won't be able to see where you're working. Be sure your vacuum has a HEPA filtering system to remove the fine dust. If not, that fine dust will be sent through the vacuum out into your work area for you to breath in.

Noise

Sandblasting creates enough constant noise to damage your hearing. Wear hearing protection. Ear plugs or earmuffs cost a lot less than a hearing aid.

Common sense

Safe sandblasting is mostly just common sense. Don't do anything stupid. Take reasonable precautions and you'll be fine.