

## **Breathe Freely Campaign – Information for Woodworkers**

Hardwood, softwood and wood composite dusts arise in wood machining and sanding. They are a common cause of occupational asthma. Asthma affects workers in the furniture and joinery industries.

### **Top tips**

- Use dust extraction. For dusty jobs, you also need respiratory protective equipment
- Never sweep up or use compressed air. Clean up using wet methods or an industrial vacuum cleaner
- Check that all extraction systems work properly once a week
- You need regular health surveillance

### **Reduce disease – reduce exposure to wood dusts**

The dustiest tasks are sanding, assembly and cleaning, and these usually require a respirator in addition to dust extraction.

Settled dust is easily raised, and is also a dust explosion hazard, so cleaning is important.