

# Masonry cutting - Avoiding by design

## The Problem/Challenge

Cutting and blocks, paviours or tiles on site due to setting out or design detailing decisions eg. Notching concrete blocks into the web of a steel column for a smooth cavity face.

## The Risks

Creation of silica dust which affects operatives, other workers and the public. Silicosis is an increasingly common disease.

## The Solution

Early identification of the issues to the team to avoid the need to cut, grind or smooth where possible. Analysis of the alternative processes possible to achieve the same result.

## The Benefits

Cutting and grinding operations are slow and not cost effective. Minimize cutting of paviours, tiles, slabs etc. by setting out accurately on drawings. Where unavoidable use of safe cutting and grinding equipment and wet methods or vacuum dust hoods essential.

## Key Points

Review the detail design, equipment and access issues with contractor as early as possible. Cost benefits may be possible as well as safety benefits. If the details is essential off site and controlled cutting is recommended.



**Avoid unnecessary or excessive cutting**



**Avoid "Notched" block details**