

Reducing Unnecessary Exposure to Dust at the Mixing Station

SPEC MIX silo delivery systems are designed to increase productivity on site while adding to job site safety by reducing physical injury with their ergonomically correct design. The standard gravity silos can also limit workers exposure to construction site mixing dust when the following best practices are incorporated into every day use.

Loading the Silo :

1. Install the SPEC MIX Dust Containment Chute into the fill port of the silo. The end of the tube with the skirt should be positioned just above the top of the silo and draped down to close any air gaps between the dust containment chute and the silo.
2. Position the bulk bag over the top of the silo centered over the fill port and safety ring so that the dust containment chute meets up with the bottom of the bulk bag.
3. Lower the bulk bag to a position just above the safety ring, compressing the dust containment chute.
4. Using the bulk bag hook, pull the dust containment chute down and hook the b-lock on the outer chute at the bottom of the bulk bag. Pull the b-lock to open the outer chute
5. Using the bulk bag hook, pull the dust containment chute down and hook the b-lock on the inner chute at the bottom of the bulk bag. Pull the b-lock on the inner chute to begin dispensing material into the silo.
6. Immediately remove the bulk bag hook to allow the dust containment chute to compress up into the bottom of the bulk bag, containing any dust as the material dispenses into the silo.
7. Climb down the ladder as the material dispenses into the silo to minimize exposure to dust while filling the silo.



Silo Mixing Procedure:

1. Position silo in an area of open wind, avoiding enclosed or confined areas.
2. Position the silo so the mason tender can be positioned with a crosswind over the mixer or downwind to keep dust from blowing into the face of the worker while mixing. Many SPEC MIX silos are equipped with rotating gate that allow for the handle to be moved without moving the silo itself. To keep rotating gates working properly, keep grease in zerks and make sure to open the gate before attempting to rotate it to remove downward force from the weight of the material on the gate when rotating.
3. Cut the chute so that it is as close to the mixer grate as possible.
4. Fill the mixer with sufficient water to receive the material. It is beneficial to keep the initial batch wetter than required for final use to ensure complete hydration of the aggregate, reducing dust when charging the mixer and increasing board life of the final product.
5. When opening the gate, take a stance that is away from the discharge of material to limit exposure to nuisance dust.
6. Open the gate with even force and only as wide as needed to allow for a good steady flow of material into the silo. Opening at too great of a distance can cause product surges that have the potential to increase nuisance dust on site.
7. When the desired amount of material has been dispensed into the mixer, shut the gate with even force, maintaining distance from the mixer.
8. As the wind shifts, make sure to position with a cross wind or downwind to continue to avoid nuisance dust.



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