

DIY "Dust Collection" For Woodturning

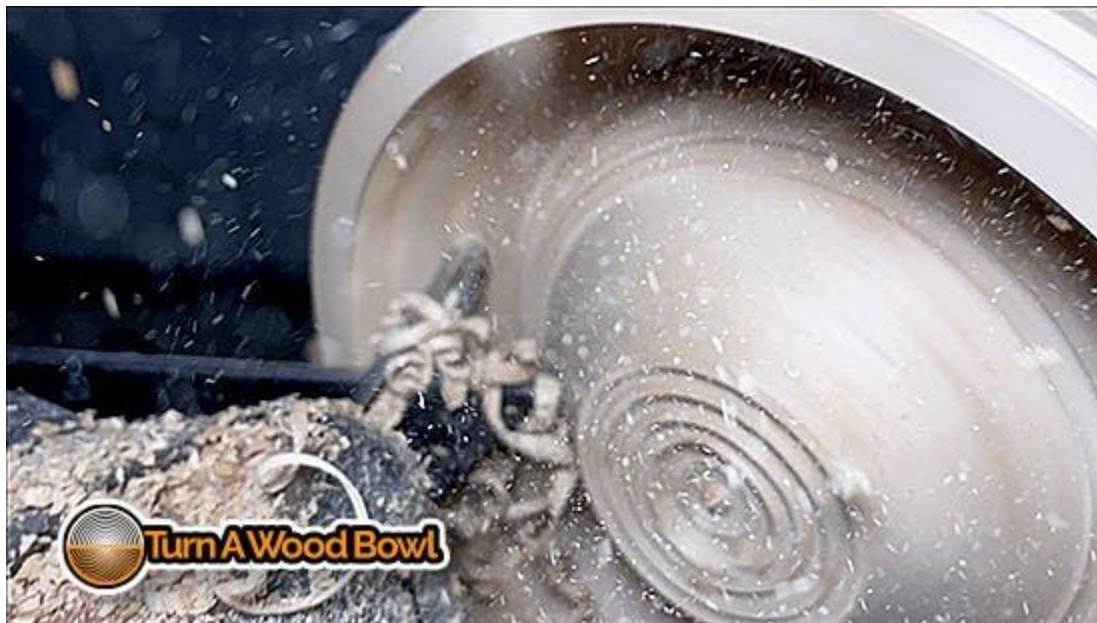
It's funny how some things from our cousin "woodworking" don't necessarily translate to woodturning.

"Dust collection" is a great example.

I'm often asked, "***what dust collection system do I use?***"

I have to chuckle because it seems as if the person asking wants to go buy a single product or system and be able to flip a switch and make all the turning space clean again. LOL

While that can be done for many "woodworking" tools, it really doesn't apply to woodturning.



We need to think of dust collection, actually, **it should be called "Debris Clean Up"** differently with woodturning.

Think of the different types of "debris" we create while turning, mainly fine dust and larger particles or shavings.

Perhaps a huge industrial vacuum system with a massive intake could suck up all that dust and debris as we turn, but that is not a practical solution for most of us.

Instead, we need to be realistic about our approach and understand we will need to be doing some sweeping.

Here's what I do.

First — I address the fine dust. That is the **stuff that WILL kill you!** I always [wear a very good respirator](#) with [proper dust filters](#).

Secondly — Also to address that deadly fine dust, I run a [ceiling-mounted dust filtration system](#). This moves the air, catches the fine particles and clears the air of lingering very small dust.

Thirdly — I stop the large chips from freely moving across my shop by using screens. A simple window screen (I've heard of people using shower curtains as well) hung near the lathe at the points where chips usually go flying stops them and keeps them contained.

Fourth — And the most exciting step, I sweep...with my respirator on!

It's really that simple.

When sanding it's not a bad idea to use a vacuum with a port under and near your turning. However, you will need to get that out of the way while you turn because the large chips will simply choke the vacuum. I find letting the sanding dust settle and sweeping it up works best for me.

As always, this is what I do and there are plenty of other options available as well.

Let me know what you do to manage your "Debris Clean-Up?"

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Happy Turning,
Kent Weakley**

