

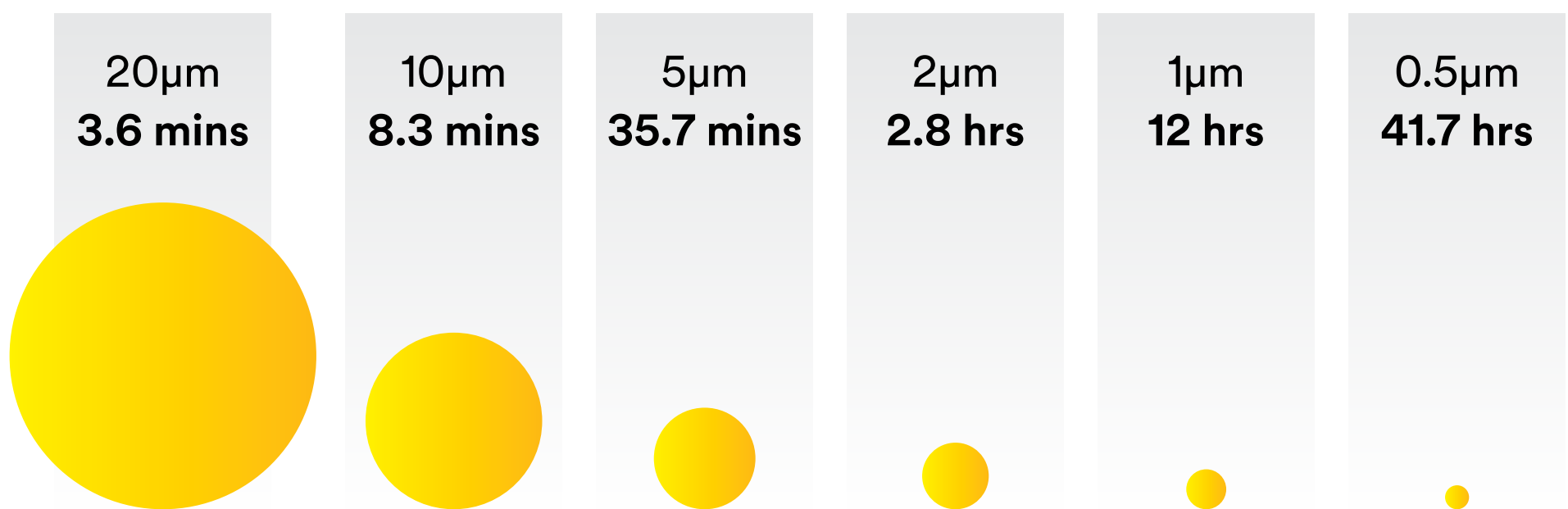
How long can particles stay in the air?

In the workplace many people often remove their respirator too soon when they have stopped their particle generating activity e.g. spraying, cutting, welding... because they can't see the hazard.

But, the particle's size makes a big difference!

A dust particle's size and the stillness of the air can determine how long it may stay in the air.

1000µm (micron)
= 1 millimetre



Estimated settling rates for different sized mist droplets ...from a height of 1.5m in still air[^]

The airborne hazard will often continue to be present long after work has stopped.

Wear your respirator at ALL times when the hazard is present!

Have a look at the settling rates through gravity of different sized mist droplets from a height of 1.5m in still air. Remember that this refers to still air - if the air is turbulent these droplets can remain airborne far longer.

These small droplets become invisible as they disperse in the air. Dry particles like wood dust and cement dust of similar sizes behave in a very similar way.