

*(Long newsletter article – engineered stone ban)*

10/06/24

## **Engineered stone ban – what it means to South Australia**

A national ban on the use of engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs will come into effect on 1 July 2024.

The decision was based on a recommendation by Safe Work Australia following expert advice about the rise of silicosis in engineered stone workers.

SafeWork SA is undertaking a state-wide campaign to raise awareness of the ban.

It is also providing advice on complying with the ban to support workers, businesses and the general public.

More details, including factsheets, are available on the SafeWork SA website [safework.sa.gov.au](https://safework.sa.gov.au)

Amendments to South Australia's *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012* associated with the ban will be published on the [SafeWork SA website](https://safework.sa.gov.au).

Engineered stone is safe once installed, so long as it remains undisturbed.

Consumers, the general public and businesses are not required to remove engineered stone products already installed prior to the 1 July ban.

Transitional arrangements exist in South Australia, so eligible contracts associated with the installation of engineered stone entered into on or before 31 December 2023 can be fulfilled, providing they are completed by 31 December 2024.

When engineered stone is processed, such as by cutting or grinding, it releases small particles of respirable crystalline silica dust that, if inhaled into the lungs, can cause respiratory problems, and in severe cases, silicosis – a disease resulting in permanent disability or death.

### **More information:**

SafeWork SA: [safework.sa.gov.au](https://safework.sa.gov.au)

Safe Work Australia: [safeworkaustralia.gov.au](https://safeworkaustralia.gov.au)

### **For advice:**

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