

FACTSHEET

Information for consumers and the general public



Engineered stone ban 1 July 2024

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

The ban will protect Australian workers from the potentially fatal effects of respirable silica dust generated when cutting, drilling, sawing or polishing the stone.

What's changing

From 1 July 2024, you will not be permitted to have engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs installed in your premises unless covered under transition rules.

Already installed benchtops, panels and slabs

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

There is no requirement for you to have engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs removed.

Permitted work

Removal, repairs, minor modification and disposal of engineered stone products installed prior to the ban are permitted.

It is important that you don't undertake DIY work with engineered stone.

Contract a suitable tradesperson in this work.

Contracted orders

Transitional arrangements exist in South Australia to allow eligible contracts associated with the installation of engineered stone entered into on or before 31 December 2023 for work involving the supply, installation or processing of engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs to be fulfilled, providing they are completed by 31 December 2024. If incomplete by then, you must use alternative products.

Can I get my money back if I no longer want to install an engineered stone benchtop?

If you no longer want to install an engineered stone benchtop, panel or slab, contact your supplier and discuss the reasons for your change of mind.

For further advice, contact Consumer and Business Services on 131 882.

Alternatives to engineered stone kitchen benchtops

Alternative products include:

- stainless steel
- timber
- laminate
- solid surface (blend of resin, minerals and pigments such as acrylic or polyester)
- recycled glass
- porcelain
- sintered stone
- polished concrete
- natural stone, including marble and granite.



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Products not included in the ban

The ban does not apply to finished engineered stone products (such as jewellery, garden ornaments, sculptures, kitchen sinks) which do not require processing or modification.

More details are available on the SafeWork SA website: safework.sa.gov.au

Do I have to dispose of unused engineered stone benchtops, slabs or panels I have at home?

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) South Australia is the state's environment protection regulator.

There is no EPA requirement to dispose of engineered stone material that is being kept at home.

Disposal should be undertaken at an Environment Protection Authority licenced waste facility. Contact the EPA at www.epa.sa.gov.au for any enquiries about licenced waste facilities.

Health and safety risks may arise if silica dust is generated during the removal, repair, minor modification or disposal of engineered stone.

Regulatory changes

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

Amendments to South Australia's Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 will be available on the [SafeWork SA website](https://safework.sa.gov.au) on 1 July 2024.

More Information:

Compliance	SafeWork SA	1300 365 255 safework.sa.gov.au
Consumer rights	Consumer and Business Services SA	131 882 cbs.sa.gov.au
Contracts	Office of the Small Business Commissioner SA	1800 072 722 sasbc.sa.gov.au
Disposal	Environment Protection Authority	8204 2004 epa.sa.gov.au
National perspective	Safe Work Australia	safeworkaustralia.gov.au



Workplace health and safety advice:

- ➔ SafeWork SA
T: 1300 365 255
E: help.safework@sa.gov.au