

FACTSHEET

Information for workers

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 crystalline silica dust generated when cutting, crushing, drilling, sawing or polishing the stone.

What's changing

From 1 July 2024, businesses will not be permitted to install, manufacture, process or supply engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs.

Contracted orders

Transitional arrangements exist in South Australia, so 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 can be fulfilled, providing they are completed by 31 December 2024.

Permitted work

Certain work with previously installed engineered stone products is permitted but is restricted to removal, repair, minor modifications and disposal.

If your employer wishes to undertake this work, they must notify SafeWork SA **before** any permitted work with legacy engineered stone is carried out.

Work involving genuine research and analysis and the sampling and identification of engineered stone can continue.



Staying safe

If you are required to work on previously installed engineered stone, you may be exposed to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) at work.

Your employer must protect you, and anyone else in the workplace, from risks to your health and safety, such as those from exposure to RCS.

Your employer must also use control measures to remove, or reduce, exposure to silica dust, including:

- ➔ wet cutting
- ➔ on-tool dust removal
- ➔ local exhaust ventilation
- ➔ breathing protection.

Your employer must ensure that information, training, and instruction is provided to you with regard to the nature of the work that is carried out, the nature of the risk associated with the work and the control measures implemented.

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Working with other products

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.

Other exclusions include concrete and cement products, bricks, pavers, and other similar blocks, ceramic wall and floor tiles, sintered stone, porcelain products, roof tiles, grout, mortar, and render, and plasterboard.

Work that involves processing a substance containing crystalline silica must be controlled.

Health monitoring

A business or organisation must provide, and pay for, health monitoring for its workers who are working with engineered stone.

Safe Work Australia recommends annual health monitoring for engineered stone workers.

Speak to your Health and Safety Representative, manager or employer for details.

Notification process

Any work with previously installed engineered stone must be controlled and businesses which plan to undertake permitted work with legacy engineered stone will be required to notify SafeWork SA.

A notification form will be available on SafeWork SA's website from 1 July 2024.

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](#) 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



For advice:

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