

FACTSHEET

Information for businesses

Engineered stone ban 1 July 2024

What it means to South Australian businesses

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 install, manufacture, process or supply new engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs.

Permitted work

Subject to stringent control measures, you will be able to remove, repair, make minor modifications to and dispose of engineered stone products that are already installed.

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

Notification process

Any work with previously installed engineered stone must be controlled and businesses who 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.

Obligations to workers

You must protect people from exposure to silica dust. A business 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.

You must ensure that information, training, and instruction is provided for your workers 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.

Contracted orders

Transitional arrangements exist in South Australia, so eligible contracts 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.

If incomplete by then, householders must use alternative products.

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.

FACTSHEET

Information for businesses

Also excluded:

- 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

Disposal

If you wish to dispose of unused engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs, for yourself or a customer, this should be undertaken at an Environment Protection Authority licenced waste facility.

Product exemptions

A national process for seeking an exemption from the prohibition for engineered stone products has been developed and is available via the SafeWork SA website.

Persons seeking to have a type of engineered stone exempted from the ban can lodge an application with SafeWork SA. An application form will be available on SafeWork SA's website from 1 July 2024.

Business disputes

If you need help agreeing with your stone supplier on how to approach matters such as stock ordered and payments, contact the Office of the Small Business Commissioner South Australia on 1800 072 722.

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.

New state-wide regulations in line with the national ban will be introduced on 1 July 2024.

Amendments to South Australia's Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 will be available on the [SafeWork SA website](https://www.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



For advice:

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