

WORKER ALERT: SILICA DUST CAN KILL!

ENGINEERED STONE IS MAKING WORKERS SICK

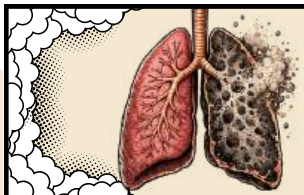
NO COUNTERTOP IS WORTH A WORKER'S LIFE

If you cut, grind, drill, polish, install or clean up engineered stone, you may be breathing dangerous silica dust.

Many engineered stone products can contain more than **90% crystalline silica**, creating extremely dangerous dust when it is cut, ground, or polished.



Some workers in their 30s have already needed **LUNG TRANSPLANTS** because of exposure to engineered stone dust.



SILICA DUST IS SO SMALL IT CAN ENTER DEEP INTO THE LUNGS AND CAUSE PERMANENT DAMAGE.

SILICOSIS HAS NO CURE

Silica dust can cause silicosis – an incurable lung disease – and increase the risk of lung cancer, kidney disease, and other serious illnesses.



AUSTRALIA BANNED ENGINEERED STONE IN 2024



THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT WORKERS HERE CONTINUE TO BE EXPOSED EVERY DAY

HIGHEST RISK JOBS:

- Fabrication workers
- Stone cutters & polishers
- Installers
- Construction & renovation workers
- Cleanup workers

HOW WORKERS ARE BEING EXPOSED:

- Dry cutting
- Poor ventilation
- Little or no dust control
- Inadequate respirators
- Little or no training
- Pressure to work faster

WARNING SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Shortness of breath
- Persistent cough
- Chest pain
- Fatigue

Symptoms may appear after exposure - or much sooner with engineered stone.

You may not feel sick right away. Lung damage can occur before symptoms appear.



The higher the level of exposure, the more rapidly silicosis can develop. With engineered stone, severe disease has developed in workers after only a few years of exposure.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- ✓ Never cut engineered stone dry
- ✓ Use wet cutting and dust controls
- ✓ Never dry sweep or use compressed air. Use wet cleanup.
- ✓ Wear approved respiratory protection
- ✓ Ask for silica hazard training
- ✓ Request a medical evaluation if you've been exposed
- ✓ Report unsafe conditions without retaliation



THINK YOU'VE BEEN EXPOSED?



- Seek medical care early and tell the provider you may have been exposed to silica dust at work
- Ask whether you should receive a medical evaluation if exposure has been significant
- Early action can help identify serious lung damage sooner



If you believe you have been exposed to silica dust or health hazards related to engineered stone work, do not wait. Contact a local COSH group, worker center, or your union.



Your employer is responsible for controlling silica dust – not workers.

While OSHA has a silica standard, workers continue to become sick and die from engineered stone fabrication, showing that stronger protections are urgently needed.



Visit www.nationalcosh.org or email info@nationalcosh.org for worker safety resources and support.



ORGANIZE. SPEAK UP. BUILD POWER.



Workers have the right to raise concerns, organize collectively, and demand safer workplaces without retaliation.