

## Engineered Stone Ban

### Information for Consumers

On 13 December 2023, Commonwealth state and territory Work Health and Safety ministers announced a ban on engineered stone effective 1 July 2024.

#### What is engineered stone?

Engineered stone is a product that is commonly used in kitchen and bathroom benchtops. It is defined as an artificial product that contains at least 1% crystalline silica as a weight/weight concentration, is created by combining natural stone materials with other chemical constituents (such as water, resins, or pigments), and becomes hardened.

#### What does the ban cover?

Any work involving the manufacture, supply, processing, or installation of engineered stone is banned, when it applies to:

- benchtops - for example those installed in kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoor surfaces
- panels - for example kitchen splashbacks; and
- slabs - for example larger pieces of engineered stone that might need to be cut to fit a variety of different installation settings.

As a customer, you can no longer purchase these products for installation in your home, however products with less than 1% crystalline silica content are still permitted, so may be an option available to you.

Finished engineered stone products such as jewellery, garden ornaments, sculptures and kitchen sinks, which do not require processing and pose a lower health and safety risk are not included in the ban.

For further information on products excluded from the ban, see the [SafeWork NSW website](#).

If you have entered into an engineered stone contract before 31 December 2023 with installation prior to 31 December 2024, this is covered by a transition period and this work is still permitted.

Scan the QR codes below to find out more about the engineered stone ban and how to work safely with crystalline silica substances.



SafeWork NSW –  
Engineered Stone  
Ban



SafeWork NSW –  
Crystalline Silica

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### What alternatives to engineered stone are available?

There are alternatives available to engineered stone and SafeWork NSW recommends that you discuss your options with your chosen supplier. Engineered stone with less than 1% crystalline silica content is also still permitted, so may be an option available to you.

### I have engineered stone in my home, do I have to get it removed?

There is no need to remove engineered stone already installed (legacy engineered stone). As long as no work is being carried out to remove, repair, or modify legacy engineered stone (i.e. cutting, drilling, polishing and grinding), there are no health risks to having it in your home.

### Can I conduct work on engineered stone already installed in my home?

Uncontrolled cutting, drilling, polishing and grinding of engineered stone can generate hazardous levels of airborne silica dust. Exposure to silica dust can lead to serious illnesses including silicosis and lung cancer. Qualified tradespeople have an understanding of how to stay safe when working with engineered stone products and the necessary equipment to protect themselves from exposure to silica dust, they must use control measures to minimise the generation of dust and must wear respiratory protection. These tradespeople must also notify SafeWork NSW if they are planning to undertake work with engineered stone already installed. If you are considering undertaking do-it-yourself (DIY) work involving a power tool or other mechanical plant to cut, grind, trim, sand, abrasive polish or drill on an engineered stone product, it may be worthwhile contacting a competent tradesperson instead.

#### Speak Up Saves Lives app

Our Speak Up Saves Lives app lets you report on an unsafe work situation, while giving you the choice to remain anonymous. The app is available to download for free



Call us on 13 10 50



For information and guidance materials visit [safework.nsw.gov.au](https://safework.nsw.gov.au)