

Engineered Stone Ban: Guidance for Workers

Engineered stone ban explained

- From 1 July 2024 the ban on engineered stone commenced, which applies to engineered stone **benchtops, panels and slabs** only. Depending on your state or territory, different transitional periods are in place, which means that any contracts entered into before December 2023 can be completed utilising these materials up until 31 December 2024.
- From 1 September 2024 new regulations commenced relating to the control and processing of materials containing crystalline silica substances. This includes the use of risk assessments when utilising these substances and the enactment of a silica risk control plan. There are also new regulations to ensure workers are trained and educated on the risk of working with crystalline silica.
- From 1 January 2025 a ban on the importation of engineered stone benchtops, slabs and panels will be implemented.

What is not included in the engineered stone ban?

- Concrete and cement products
- Bricks, pavers, and other similar blocks
- Ceramic walls and floor tiles
- Sintered stone
- Porcelain products
- Roof tiles
- Grout, mortar, and render, and
- Plasterboard.

What is your employer's responsibility to keep you safe?

- Any persons conducting a business or undertaking must not carry out, direct or allow a worker to carry out, work that involves manufacture, supply, processing, or installation of engineered stone benchtop, panels and slabs. Your employer cannot ask you to carry out any of the above listed work using the banned materials.
- Work can be carried out on legacy engineered stone products (already installed) to repair, remove, or make minor modifications; however, this requires the local state or territory regulator to be notified.

How are workers impacted by the ban?

If you are working with engineered stone, your employer must protect you and anyone else in the workplace from health and safety risk such as exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Control measures must be put in place.

What you as a worker can do

As a worker you must follow any reasonable health and safety instruction. It is important that you work safely, follow instructions, ask if you are not sure how to perform work safely, use personal protective equipment (PPE) in the way you were trained/instructed, and report injuries and workplace incidents to your supervisor or Health and Safety Representative (HSR).

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ENGINEERED STONE BAN AT:

- Safe Work Australia
- Your local state or territory workplace health and safety regulation body.