



# Engineered Stone Ban FAQ



## What is engineered stone?

Engineered stone is a man-made construction material. It is used for things like floors, benches and splashbacks and can be found in kitchens and bathrooms. It also goes by other names like composite stone, manufactured stone and artificial stone.

## What is the engineered stone ban?

All states and territories in Australia have banned the manufacture, supply, processing and installation of engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs.

The ban falls under work health and safety laws and will protect workers in the engineered stone industry.

The Australian Government will also ban the importation of engineered stone from 1 January 2025.

## When did the ban start?

The ban started in all jurisdictions on 1 July 2024. However, each state and territory has specific arrangements to help with the transition.

It is important to stay up to date with the laws that apply in your location. Every state and territory has made their own changes to work health and safety laws to implement the ban.

## Why did we ban engineered stone?

The ban was put into place following a rise in the diagnosis of silicosis among engineered stone workers. By banning the material, we're protecting engineered stone workers from this life threatening and avoidable disease.

The decision was based on recommendations from Safe Work Australia and is supported by the government in every Australian state and territory.

## What is included in the ban?

The ban applies to any engineered stone slabs, panels and benchtops. Repairs, removals or minor modifications can be made to engineered stone that is already installed, but only if the work is controlled. Control methods can include using a wet dust suppression system, an on-tool dust extraction system or an exhaust ventilation system.

## What is not included in the ban?

The ban does not include finished engineered stone products that don't need to be processed or modified, such as prefabricated sinks, jewellery or garden ornaments.

## I have engineered stone in my home or workplace. What should I do?

You don't need to take any action right now. It is safe to keep it installed.

You can carry out repairs or minor modifications on engineered stone that is already installed, but you should contact a qualified tradesperson to undertake the work. If you need to remove or dispose of engineered stone, you should have the work done by a qualified tradesperson who can follow the relevant safety requirements.

If you're planning a DIY project with engineered stone, do not do it yourself. The silica dust released when working with engineered stone can be harmful when inhaled. Instead, contact a qualified tradesperson to carry out the work.

## I'm a business or tradesperson who works with engineered stone. What should I do?

Make sure you are up to date with your state or territory's work health and safety laws. You can visit the [Safe Work Australia website](#) to check the laws in each state.

If you work with engineered stone you must manage risks from exposure to silica dust and follow your state's work health and safety regulations to protect yourself and your workers.

## More information

To find out more about the ban and what you need to do, visit the [Department of Employment and Workplace Relations](#) and [Safe Work Australia website](#).