


ADVICE FOR THOSE INSTALLING STONE WORKTOPS




Practical guidance for installers, their managers and supervisors who are involved in the installation of stone worktops (natural, artificial or engineered stone). Suitable procedures must be in place to control installers exposure to stone dust (and respirable crystalline silica within it).

Competence & effective processes


 **DO** ensure you and fellow installers are trained to work with stone and can report any issues on-site.


 **DON'T** use untrained installers – you're putting workers' lives at risk.


 **DO** regularly check and maintain all onsite equipment (tools or controls). Ensure filters in on-tool extraction, vacuums and RPE are changed as necessary.

 **DON'T** provide or use inadequate, poorly maintained tools or controls.

Pre-installation

 **DO** check the specification before starting installation and ensure that any optional aspects, e.g. cutting drainage grooves, are resolved.


 **DON'T** be persuaded to carry out additional fabrication tasks on-site.


 **DO** eliminate on-site fabrication e.g. cut out sink & tap holes in the workshop. Clean worktops thoroughly before transporting to site. Remove dust by wet cleaning or a class M vacuum.

 **DON'T** do unnecessary fabrication tasks on-site. Thin overlays, upstands etc, may need to be cut on site if they are too fragile for transport.


 **DO** use accurate measurements for fabrication e.g. get specifications from contractors or customers, or use templates or infrared measuring devices.

 **DON'T** rely on poor measurements or estimates that could lead to on-site alterations.


 **DO** identify any on-site fabrication tasks and controls required. Develop a safe system of work ensuring the right facilities are available e.g. adequate water supply for suppression, segregated area.

 **DON'T** assume any combination of controls will work - check you know the right combination and how to correctly use each.

On-site installation


 **DO** any minor on-site modifications outdoors, in a well ventilated, segregated area with restricted access.

 **DON'T** carry out major modifications on-site. Take your worktop back to the workshop.

 **DO** use appropriate controls:


- apply water suppression or on-tool extraction (with shroud and dust collector attached to class M vacuum).
- also use RPE with APF of at least 20 unless monitoring data shows this level of protection is unnecessary.

 **DON'T** rely on RPE alone, unless your risk assessment shows it is adequate.


 **DO** shut down any local heating systems with blowers or air-conditioning units that could resuspend settled dust.

 **DON'T** assume all air movement is good ventilation – check that any dust is being carried away from workers.

Post-installation

 **DO** clean up after installation - use wet methods (e.g. low pressure wet hosing) or vacuum (dust class M) and RPE.

 **DON'T** use cleaning methods that create airborne dust.

 **DO** discard all stone waste slurry and captured dust in a safe manner.

 **DON'T** delay cleaning up. Wet slurries can dry out, creating dust that may become airborne.

 **DO** avoid transferring dust between areas by keeping PPE clean.

 **DON'T** use dry brushing or compressed air to remove dust from clothing.