

**ENGINEERED
STONE**



Advice for installing stone worktops.



Protect workers. Control silica dust.

Practical guidance for installers and supervisors

This guidance is for installers, managers and supervisors involved in fitting natural, artificial or engineered stone worktops. Suitable controls and safe working procedures should be used to minimise exposure to stone dust, including respirable crystalline silica (RCS).

**Find out more about working with silica:
[www.hse.gov.uk/stonemasonry/
installing-stone-worktops.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/stonemasonry/installing-stone-worktops.htm)**



Safe processes

DO

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

- ✗ **Don't** use untrained installers - you're putting workers' lives at risk.
- ✗ **Don't** provide or use inadequate, poorly maintained tools or controls.

Pre-installation

DO

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

- ✓ **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.

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

DON'T

- ✗ **Don't** be persuaded to carry out additional fabrication tasks on-site.

- ✗ **Don't** do unnecessary fabrication tasks on-site.

- ✗ **Don't** rely on poor measurements or estimates that could lead to on-site alterations.

On-site installation

DO

- ✓ **Do** any minor on-site modifications outdoors, in a well ventilated, segregated area with restricted access.
- ✓ **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. Tight fitting RPE needs face fit testing and must be clean shaven.
- ✓ **Do** shut down any local heating systems with blowers or air-conditioning units that could resuspend settled dust.

DON'T

- ✗ **Don't** carry out major modifications on-site. Take your worktop back to the workshop.
- ✗ **Don't** rely on RPE alone.
- ✗ **Don't** assume all air movement is good ventilation – check that any dust is being carried away from workers.

Post-installation

DO

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

- ✓ **Do** discard all stone waste slurry and captured dust in a safe manner.

- ✓ **Do** avoid transferring dust between areas by keeping PPE clean.

DON'T

- ✗ **Don't** use cleaning methods that create airborne dust, this includes dry sweeping.

- ✗ **Don't** delay cleaning up. Wet slurries can dry out, creating dust that may become airborne.

- ✗ **Don't** use dry brushing or compressed air to remove dust from clothing.