

**ENGINEERED  
STONE**



# Campaign Toolkit



**Your support can save lives. Help us amplify these messages.**

# About this toolkit

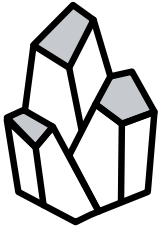
**This toolkit gives you everything you need to support HSE's engineered stone campaign by sharing key messages and assets through your own channels and networks.**

**The campaign responds to the deaths of young workers from silicosis, a deadly but preventable lung disease caused by breathing in dust from dry-cutting and polishing engineered stone.**

**HSE has published new guidance and is carrying out over 1,000 workplace inspections across Great Britain.**

**Your support in amplifying these messages could save lives.**

# The issue



## Widely used

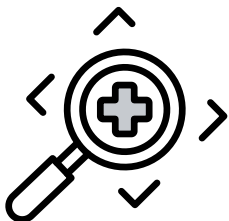
Engineered stone, widely used in kitchen and bathroom worktops, can contain as much as 90% crystalline silica.



## Serious health implications

When processing, it releases invisible dust that can cause silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer.

Engineered stone dust can cause silicosis in months or years rather than decades. Workers can suffer permanent, irreversible lung damage before they notice any symptoms.

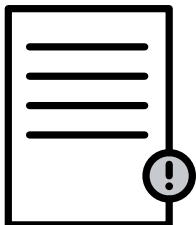


## Preventable with the right controls

HSE undertook two years of research and industry engagement, the findings were stark:

- Dry cutting produces silica dust exposure five to ten times higher than wet methods.
- Many businesses are still not using the right controls.

# What HSE is doing



## Published new guidance

HSE has issued a new [COSHH guidance sheet \(ST3A\)](#) specifically for engineered stone, setting out what employers must do to protect workers and meet their legal requirements.

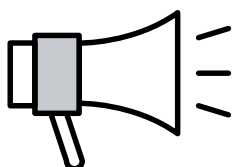
Including:

- Switch to materials with a low silica content
- Use on-tool water suppression and control mist
- Provide appropriate respiratory protective equipment (RPE)
- Carry out regular health surveillance



## Launched 1,000+ inspections

HSE inspectors are visiting fabricators across Great Britain. Enforcement action will be taken against those failing to meet the required standards.



## Raising awareness

HSE is raising awareness of engineered stone risks with campaign activity. We've launched a new campaign website to act as a hub of advice and resources, sharing information through social media and media, trade shows and events, podcasts and with help from others, like you.

# Key messages

**The following messages are cleared for use. Please do not alter the core facts, but you are welcome to adapt the tone and framing for your audience.**

Engineered stone is widely used in kitchen worktops and can contain up to 90% respirable crystalline silica (RCS).

The cutting, grinding and polishing of engineered stone can generate high levels of fine dust containing RCS. If the dust is inhaled, it can cause devastating lung diseases including silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer. The dust is also abrasive and drying when in contact with skin.

Although irreversible, these diseases are preventable with the right controls which include:

- Using on tool water suppression
- Controlling the mist generated
- Using powered air purifying respirators (PAPR)

Providing regular health surveillance is one of the essential requirements alongside effective controls. Health surveillance is series of health checks provided by an occupational health professional to identify certain diseases related to working with engineered stone. It includes questionnaires, lung function testing and skin checks.

HSE has issued a new [COSHH guidance sheet \(ST3A\)](#) specifically for engineered stone, setting out what employers must do to protect workers and meet their legal requirements.

# Key facts and figures

Download these graphics to use on your channels from our [campaign resource hub](#).

Engineered stone  
Can contain as  
much as **90%**  
crystalline  
silica.



Silicosis can develop  
from engineered  
stone exposure in  
**months or  
years.**



Engineered stone  
workers can suffer  
**permanent  
lung damage**  
before experiencing  
symptoms.



Dry cutting  
engineered stone  
produces silica  
dust exposure  
**5 to 10** times  
higher than wet  
methods.



HSE will conduct  
**1,000  
inspections**  
of engineered  
stone fabricators  
across Great  
Britain.



More HSE statistics can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

# Social media posts

**If you would like to share on your own social media, these are ready to use or adapt.**

HSE has published guidance on engineered stone, making clear that dry cutting is unacceptable. Over 1,000 workplace inspections are underway across Great Britain. If your business works with engineered stone, read the guidance now.

Workers cutting engineered stone can develop silicosis, an incurable but preventable lung disease, in a matter of months not years. HSE guidance sets out what employers must do to protect their workers from exposure to harmful dust. Find out more.

Latest HSE guidance: dry cutting of engineered stone is unacceptable. 1,000+ inspections are underway. Is your business ready?

Silicosis is incurable, but it is entirely preventable with the right controls. HSE guidance on engineered stone sets out what the law requires. Workers and employers: know your rights and responsibilities.

**Always link to**

**[hse.gov.uk](https://hse.gov.uk) or <https://workright.campaign.gov.uk/>**

If you use hashtags, you may want to use  
#Silicosis #EngineeredStone #HSE

**Follow HSE on social media.**



# Suggested article

**If you would like to share on your own channels, see suggested wording below as a starter for ten. You can also see our [news pages](#) for latest updates. Feel free to include more information relevant to your work area and/or add a quote from a spokesperson from your organisation.**

## **Protecting workers from engineered stone dust, latest HSE guidance.**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published guidance on working safely with engineered stone.

The guidance makes clear that dry cutting is unacceptable and that on tool water suppression is key to reducing exposure alongside mist control, providing appropriate respiratory protective equipment, and carrying out regular health surveillance.

HSE is conducting more than 1,000 inspections across Great Britain this year, with enforcement action taken against businesses not meeting the required standards.

If you work with engineered stone, or represent businesses and workers who do, we encourage you to read and share the guidance. Visit [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk)

**Use quotes and key messaging from our [launch press release](#) to bring your story to life.**



# Links and resources

[HSE campaigns website for engineered stone](#) provides a hub of information. Access tools, guidance and support in one place.

- Videos
- Social media assets
- Manager and worker leaflets
- Links to relevant guidance
- Training opportunities

You can also:

- Read and use copy and quotes from our [launch press release](#)
- Subscribe to the [HSE campaigns ebulletin](#)
- Find more detailed guidance at [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk)
- Contact [HSE's campaign team](#)
- Follow HSE on social media.

