

**ENGINEERED STONE & CRYSTALLINE SILICA**

A number of stories have recently appeared in the media about the risk of silicosis in relation to the processing of engineered stone, in particular engineered quartz worktops.

We would like to reassure clients that the safety of our staff and clients is a priority for us.

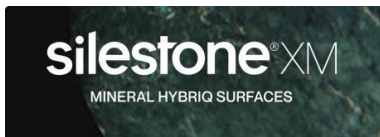
- The cutting and finishing of materials containing silica is carried out using water suppressed methods in our workshops.
- Our workshops utilise extraction systems and our staff wear the appropriate PPE when necessary during the processing of these materials.
- The health of our staff is monitored via a health surveillance programme and we employ an independent health & safety consultant, to advise on how to maintain and improve our safety measures, ensuring that we meet all current HSE guidance.

The HSE states that any health risks from RCS (respirable crystalline silica) are almost entirely preventable when exposure to the dust is adequately controlled.

Silica dust is only produced during the production stage, when materials such as engineered quartz (and other materials) are fabricated into finished surfaces such as kitchen worktops.

**There is no risk at all to a client once a finished surface is installed in their home.**

If you are unsure or concerned about ordering a material with a high silica content, we have numerous alternative materials within our product range with a low or zero silica content.



Cosentino's revolutionary technology Hybriq+® reduced the content of crystalline silica in Silestone's composition to a maximum of 40%. Meanwhile their new Silestone XM range contains a maximum 10% of crystalline silica content.



Caesarstone Mineral™ premium surfaces contain less than 40% crystalline silica, now comprising 30 Caesarstone designs. They are also launching a range of Mineral™ Crystalline Silica-Free surfaces.



Ecotone™ is a new generation of slabs containing recycled glass, bio-based resin and less than 5% silica. This collection interprets various styles with 8 different Ecotone™ slabs.



Lapitec® is the world's only sintered stone certified by the European Commission, offering a timeless, silica-free full body material for both interior and exterior projects.



Dekton is a sophisticated mixture of more than 20 minerals extracted from nature, sintered to create a premium ultra-compact surface with a silica content of 5% to 11%.

In terms of natural stone, natural granites typically have a silica content of between 20% and 45%. Both marble and limestone are very low in silica content (around 2%), although we normally advise that these materials are not as suitable as kitchen work surfaces.

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