



ULTRA STONES LLC – GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

For the Safe Fabrication of

Ultra Quartz | Kaolin / Atlas Porcelain Slabs & Tiles | Natural Stones

Warning:

This guide is intended for professionals – including stonemasons, fabricators, and installers – and provides information, recommendations, and instructions about the risks, hazard classifications, and health and safety measures to be considered when processing and installing Ultra Stones products. These products contain varying amounts of crystalline silica. Incorrect processing, or processing without appropriate safety measures, can cause serious and irreversible illnesses.

THIS GUIDE IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE AND DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER APPLICABLE U.S. FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS. ALWAYS OBTAIN ADVICE FROM A QUALIFIED INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST AND YOUR APPLICABLE OSHA AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY MEASURES REQUIRED FOR YOUR SPECIFIC WORKPLACE CONDITIONS.

SECTION 1: EXPOSURE RISK TO RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA (RCS)

Crystalline silica is a naturally occurring mineral present in many types of rock, soil, and sand – including granite, quartzite, slate, sandstone, and clay – as well as in manufactured materials such as ceramics. When Ultra Stones products are cut, drilled, ground, or polished, fine respirable particles of crystalline silica (RCS) are released into the air. These particles are invisible to the naked eye and can remain airborne for extended periods.

Exposure to RCS without adequate protective controls can cause severe, irreversible lung diseases including silicosis, pneumoconiosis, and lung cancer. These risks apply specifically during mechanical processing – the finished, installed product presents no hazard under normal use conditions. For full details, refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the specific Ultra Stones product being processed.



Signal Word: DANGER

Precautionary Statements:

P201 – Obtain special instructions before use.

P202 – Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.

P260 – Do not breathe dust.

P264 – Wash hands and face thoroughly after handling.

P270 – Do not eat, drink, or smoke when using this product.

P284 – Wear respiratory protection with particle filtering (minimum NIOSH N95, R95, or P95).



Hazard Classification by Product Line

The following tables summarize the GHS hazard classification for each Ultra Stones product line based on crystalline silica content. Always check the safety label on each slab and the applicable SDS for precise content information.

Ultra Quartz Surfaces	Crystalline Silica Content: 85–90% crystalline silica (quartz). See SDS for specific slab details.
H372	Causes damage to organs (lungs) through prolonged or repeated exposure via inhalation.
H350i	May cause cancer by inhalation.
H335	May cause respiratory irritation.

Kaolin / Atlas Porcelain Slabs & Tiles	Crystalline Silica Content: Typically low crystalline silica content (<13%). Refer to product SDS for exact values.
H373	May cause damage to organs (lungs) through prolonged or repeated exposure via inhalation.
H350i	May cause cancer by inhalation.
H335	May cause respiratory irritation.
	<i>Ultra-compact sintered ceramic surface. Edges of cut material can be very sharp – handle with cut-protection gloves. Avoid hammering scrap to reduce fragment size.</i>

Natural Stones – High Silica (Quartzite, Sandstone, Granite, Slate)	Crystalline Silica Content: Quartzite / Sandstone: >90% Granite: 10–50% Slate: <45%
H372	Causes damage to organs (lungs) through prolonged or repeated exposure via inhalation.
H350i	May cause cancer by inhalation.
H335	May cause respiratory irritation.

Natural Stones – Lower Silica (Marble, Limestone, Travertine, Soapstone)	Crystalline Silica Content: Marble: <5% Limestone, Travertine, Soapstone: typically negligible
H373	May cause damage to organs (lungs) through prolonged or repeated exposure via inhalation.
H350i	May cause cancer by inhalation.
H335	May cause respiratory irritation.

Fabricators and installers of Ultra Stones products are required to comply with all applicable U.S. federal and state occupational health and safety laws and regulations. In addition to this guide, it is strongly recommended that fabricators familiarize themselves with OSHA guidance on working with crystalline silica, available at www.osha.gov.

This guide covers the following key areas of safe practice:

- Controlling access to the work area
- Water-fed hand machines and cutting tools
- Local exhaust ventilation and filtration systems
- General ventilation in fabrication facilities
- Periodic maintenance and equipment supervision
- Workplace cleaning practices
- Dust monitoring
- Other risks: cuts, projected particles, noise, and manual handling
- Installation of countertops and worktops
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Worker hygiene
- Training and information for employees
- Health surveillance

SECTION 2: CONTROLLING ACCESS TO THE WORK AREA

Restricting access to fabrication and processing areas is a fundamental administrative control that protects workers and bystanders from unnecessary RCS exposure.

- Limit access to active fabrication and cutting zones to **authorized personnel only** who have received the required safety training.
- Post clear, visible warning signs at all entry points to areas where dust-generating operations are in progress.
- Prevent clients, visitors, and other tradespeople from entering active cutting or grinding zones during processing.
- Position dust-generating workstations **away from doors, windows, and high-traffic passageways** to prevent air currents from carrying RCS into adjacent areas.
- Where feasible, physically separate dust-generating operations from other work areas using enclosures, barriers, or designated zones.

SECTION 3: WATER-FED HAND MACHINES AND CUTTING TOOLS

The use of water-fed tools is the **preferred primary method** for controlling RCS at the source during cutting, carving, polishing, and finishing of Ultra Stones products. Water suppression, when correctly implemented, significantly reduces the generation of airborne respirable dust.

Requirements for water-fed tool use:

- **All cutting, carving, polishing, and finishing tasks must be carried out using tools equipped with an integrated water supply system.** Dry cutting or grinding without water suppression is prohibited.
- Water must be **clean, supplied in sufficient volume, and directed precisely at the cutting, carving, or polishing contact point** to suppress visible dust throughout the entire operation.

- Moistened dust and slurry must be collected and removed promptly. Do not allow wet slurry to dry out, as dried silica residue can become airborne and create a secondary exposure hazard.
- Water pumps, hoses, and nozzles must be **kept in excellent working condition** and cleaned and inspected periodically to ensure adequate flow and pressure.
- When operating water-fed electric tools, **ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) must be used** at all times, along with waterproof and sealed electrical connectors, to prevent electrical hazards. Workers in wet processing areas should wear rubber boots.

Important: Water suppression alone does not eliminate RCS exposure. Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) must always be worn in addition to wet processing methods.

SECTION 4: LOCAL EXHAUST VENTILATION (LEV) AND FILTRATION SYSTEMS

Local exhaust ventilation (LEV) is used as a complement to water-fed tools and as a primary dust control measure where wet methods are not practicable. LEV systems capture dust at the point of generation before it can become airborne and spread through the workplace.

LEV system design requirements:

- Use only recognized, qualified ventilation suppliers and licensed engineers for the design, installation, and commissioning of LEV systems.
- A properly designed LEV system must include: a **hood or enclosure** to capture contaminants at the source; **ductwork** to move contaminated air away; a **filter or air-cleaning device** (placed between the hood and the fan); a **fan or air-moving device**; and discharge ductwork to expel clean air safely outside the building.
- Apply LEV capture as close as possible to the **source of dust generation**. Encapsulate and seal the dust source as much as possible to prevent spreading.
- Connect LEV systems to a suitable dust extraction unit such as a **bag filter or cyclone separator**.
- **Workers must never stand between the dust source and the LEV intake**, as this places them directly in the path of contaminated airflow. Supervisors should monitor and correct worker positioning regularly.
- Ductwork should be kept **short and direct** — avoid long runs of flexible ducting and minimize bends, joints, and elbows that reduce system efficiency.
- Discharge extracted air to a **safe location away from building entrances, windows, and air intakes** to prevent re-entrainment of captured dust.
- Water curtains are a highly effective supplemental localized dust suppression method and their installation is strongly recommended in high-output fabrication environments.
- The use of **HEPA-filtered vacuums** attached directly to tools (on-tool extraction) is required for operations where full LEV coverage is not achievable. HEPA filters must capture at least 99.97% of particles at 0.3 microns.
- Verify compliance with applicable **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1053** engineering control requirements, including Table 1 specifications for specific tasks and equipment.

SECTION 5: GENERAL VENTILATION IN FABRICATION FACILITIES

A well-designed general ventilation system is essential in any fabrication facility because fine RCS particles can remain suspended in the air for many hours after processing has stopped. General ventilation dilutes and removes airborne contaminants from the entire workspace.

- Ensure all fabrication areas are **adequately ventilated**, using forced mechanical ventilation where natural airflow is insufficient to maintain safe air quality.
- Design ventilation airflow patterns to move contaminated air away from workers and toward extraction points – never across the breathing zone of other workers.
- Confirm that the ventilation system does **not re-suspend settled dust** from floors and surfaces or push contaminated air into clean adjacent work areas.
- Fine-atomisation dust suppression sprayers may be used at entry and exit points, along transport conveyors, and at other transition areas to prevent dust from becoming airborne during material movement.
- Ensure all air emissions from extraction systems comply with applicable **U.S. EPA and state environmental regulations** governing particulate discharge.
- Maintain a **clean, adequate supply of make-up air** to replace air removed by extraction systems, preventing negative pressure conditions that can draw contaminated air in from outside.

SECTION 6: PERIODIC MAINTENANCE AND SUPERVISION

All dust control equipment – including LEV systems, water supply systems, HEPA vacuums, and general ventilation – must be maintained in reliable, effective working order. Equipment that is poorly maintained may fail to control RCS exposure even when used correctly by workers.

- Maintain all equipment in accordance with the **manufacturer's recommendations** and a documented preventive maintenance schedule. Preventive maintenance is strongly preferred over reactive/corrective maintenance.
- Clean all equipment at the end of every shift. Never use dry brushes or compressed air to clean equipment – use wet methods or HEPA vacuum systems.
- Do not allow dust or wet slurry deposits on equipment to dry before cleaning.
- Inspect LEV systems regularly for signs of wear, blockage, or reduced airflow. Unusual noise or vibration from fans indicates a problem that must be investigated and resolved promptly.
- Replace all consumables – filters, gaskets, hoses, nozzles – in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended intervals.
- **Do not modify any component of an LEV or ventilation system** without first consulting the supplier and verifying that the modification does not compromise system performance or regulatory compliance.
- Upon installation and commissioning, obtain a **commissioning report** documenting airflow rates at all inlets, air velocity in ducts, and filter pressure readings. Retain this report as a baseline for future performance comparisons.
- Conduct a **formal visual inspection at least once per week** for signs of damage or deterioration. Inspect more frequently for continuously operated equipment, and before each use for equipment used infrequently.
- Conduct periodic **performance verification measurements** with accredited equipment to confirm that LEV capture velocities and airflows remain within design specifications.
- **Retain inspection and maintenance records** for a minimum of five years, consistent with OSHA record keeping requirements under 29 CFR 1910.1053.

SECTION 7: WORKPLACE CLEANING

Because RCS dust particles are extremely fine, they can remain suspended in air for prolonged periods and settle invisibly on all horizontal surfaces. A rigorous, systematic housekeeping program is essential to prevent the re-suspension of settled dust and the accumulation of hazardous silica residue in the workplace.

- **Clean all equipment and tools at the end of every shift**, at minimum, before workers leave for the day.
- **Clean the entire workplace daily** – floors, walls, work surfaces, and overhead structures including roof inlets and warehouse frameworks.
- Use **wet cleaning methods** (water and mop, wet wipe) or HEPA-filtered industrial vacuum cleaners for all cleaning tasks. HEPA vacuums must capture at least 99.97% of particles at 0.3 microns.
- **Dry sweeping with brooms and cleaning with compressed air are strictly prohibited.** Both methods re-aerosolise settled RCS dust and dramatically increase worker exposure.
- Address spills immediately. **Do not allow wet dust or slurry deposits to dry** before they are cleaned up.
- Where large-volume dust spills occur, use industrial vacuum systems specifically designed with sufficient capacity to avoid filter overloading and blockage.
- When wet or vacuum cleaning is genuinely not possible and dry brushing is the only available option, ensure workers wear full RPE and take measures to prevent dust from spreading beyond the immediate work area.
- Use floor and wall surfaces that are **smooth, non-porous, and easy to clean** in all fabrication areas. Avoid surfaces that absorb or retain dust.
- Protect control panels and electrical equipment from dust accumulation using plastic covers or sealed enclosures.
- Ensure an adequate number of water connection points and, where central vacuum systems are in use, vacuum connection points are available throughout the facility.

SECTION 8: DUST MONITORING

Periodic air monitoring is required under **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1053** to verify that engineering controls are effectively maintaining worker RCS exposure below the permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA). Monitoring also triggers additional employer obligations when exposures reach or exceed the action level of 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ TWA.

- A formal **exposure risk assessment** must be conducted to determine whether existing controls are adequate for each job type and work area. Both personal (worker-worn) and static (area) air sampling methods may be used in combination.
- Engage a qualified **Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)** or qualified occupational health and safety professional to design the sampling strategy, select appropriate sampling equipment, and define analysis methods.
- All dust monitoring must be performed using **OSHA-compliant sampling and analytical methods**, including OSHA Methods ID-142 or NIOSH Method 7500/7602 for crystalline silica analysis.
- Maintain **complete, organized records of all dust monitoring data**, including sampling dates, methods, results, and any corrective actions taken. OSHA requires these records to be retained for at least 30 years.

- Dust monitoring must be performed **periodically** and whenever there is a significant change in processes, equipment, materials, or work practices that could affect exposure levels.
- If monitoring results exceed the OSHA PEL (50 µg/m³ TWA) or Action Level (25 µg/m³ TWA), implement immediate corrective actions and re-sample within the timeframes prescribed by 29 CFR 1910.1053.
- Personnel conducting air sampling should themselves wear appropriate RPE in any area where silica exposure is possible.

SECTION 9: OTHER RISKS – CUTS, PARTICLES, NOISE, AND MANUAL HANDLING

In addition to RCS exposure, the fabrication and installation of Ultra Stones products involves additional physical hazards that must be assessed and controlled.

Cuts and Projected Particles

- Always **use the correct tool for each specific task** and keep all tools in good working order.
- Wear cut-resistant gloves when handling all stone slabs and processed pieces. This is particularly critical for Kaolin/Atlas Porcelain, where cut edges and scrap fragments can be extremely sharp.
- **Do not hammer porcelain or ceramic scrap** to reduce fragment size – this creates dangerously sharp shards and generates uncontrolled dust.
- Wear **safety glasses or a full-face shield** at all times during cutting, grinding, and polishing to protect against projected particles.

Noise

- Stone fabrication operations commonly generate noise levels that require **hearing protection**. Conduct noise exposure assessments and provide NIOSH-approved hearing protection to workers in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95.

Manual Handling and Ergonomics

- Use mechanical lifting equipment – cranes, forklifts, slab clamps, vacuum lifting devices, and A-frame trolleys – for all slab transport and positioning. Manually handling stone slabs without mechanical assistance presents serious injury risk.
- As far as possible, avoid manually handling or transporting loads exceeding 20 kg (approximately 44 lbs), or handling loads in awkward positions or with repetitive movements.
- All A-frames must be fitted with safety bars to prevent slab tip-over when loading or unloading – both in the warehouse and on delivery vehicles.
- Workers operating cranes, truck-mounted cranes, or forklifts must be properly trained and certified as required by applicable OSHA regulations.
- Conduct formal daily pre-use inspections of all cranes, forklifts, and lifting equipment, and schedule periodic expert inspections in accordance with manufacturer specifications and OSHA requirements.
- Inspect electrical installations periodically by a qualified electrician in accordance with applicable codes and manufacturer recommendations.
- For piece manipulation during installation, use manual suction cup lifters or equivalent mechanical handling aids.

SECTION 10: INSTALLATION OF COUNTERTOPS AND WORKTOPS

The safest installation is one that requires no on-site cutting or grinding. Fabricators should aim to deliver fully finished worktops that require only placement and securing on-site.

- **Take precise measurements** before fabrication — measure twice, cut once. Accurate pre-fabrication dimensions eliminate the need for on-site adjustments. Cut all sink cutouts, hob openings, tap holes, and other voids **at the workshop before delivery** wherever possible.
- Where a final fit-check at the installation site is necessary, work in a **well-ventilated location** (outdoors, on a terrace, or near open doors/windows) and use wet processing and wet cleaning methods exclusively.
- When any on-site cutting or adjustment is unavoidable, workers must wear **NIOSH-approved respiratory protection at a minimum of N95, R95, or P95 rating**. For higher-exposure situations, a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) with a tight-fitting face piece and high-efficiency particulate filter is strongly recommended. Ear and eye protection must also be worn.
- When fixing joints, trims, and sockets using adhesives, sealants, or solvents, **wear latex or nitrile gloves** and ensure appropriate respiratory protection that includes organic vapor filters in addition to particulate protection.
- Upon completion of all installation work, **thoroughly clean the entire area** using wet methods or a HEPA vacuum. Do not leave any silica dust residue on surfaces accessible to the client, their family, or other trades. Do not remove RPE until the clean-up is fully complete.
- Consult the separate **Ultra Stones Installer Health & Safety Guide** for comprehensive on-site installation safety requirements.

SECTION 11: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Personal protective equipment is the last line of defense against hazardous exposures and must be provided, maintained, and used correctly at all times in designated areas. PPE does not replace engineering and administrative controls — it must be used in combination with them.

Respiratory Protection

- Wear NIOSH-approved respiratory protection appropriate to the level of crystalline silica exposure. Under OSHA 29 CFR
- 1910.1053 and 1910.134, a written Respiratory Protection Program is required, including medical evaluation, fit testing, and worker training.
- Minimum required respirator ratings for RCS work under U.S. regulations: N95, R95, or P95. Higher ratings (N99, R99, P99, N100, R100, P100) are required when airborne concentrations exceed levels that N95 can adequately control.
- A **powered, air-purifying respirator (PAPR)** with a tight-fitting face piece and high-efficiency particulate filter is strongly recommended for regular or high-exposure fabrication operations.
- **Facial hair — including stubble — reduces the effectiveness of tight-fitting respirators** by breaking the face seal.
- Workers must be clean-shaven when using tight-fitting respirators.
- Verify the effectiveness of each respirator before use. Conduct **formal fit testing** for all tight-fitting respirator users to confirm an adequate face seal.

- Always check for possible exposure to additional chemical contaminants (adhesives, solvents, sealants) and use the appropriate combined filter type for the specific hazards present.

Eye, Ear, and Hand Protection

- **Wear safety glasses or a full-face shield** during all cutting, grinding, and polishing operations. Eye protection must comply with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133.
- Wear NIOSH-approved **hearing protection** in areas where noise levels exceed OSHA action levels under 29 CFR 1910.95.
Wear **cut-resistant gloves** when handling slabs, processed pieces, or scrap material. Latex or nitrile gloves are required when working with adhesives or solvents.
- Wear **steel-toed safety footwear** at all times in fabrication and storage areas. Rubber boots are required in wet processing areas.
- Wear a **safety helmet** when handling slabs with overhead lifting equipment.
- In areas with forklift or crane traffic, wear a **high-visibility vest**.

PPE Management

- The company must **provide all required PPE to employees at no cost**, in accordance with OSHA requirements.
- Provide workers with training on the correct **selection, fitting, use, maintenance, and storage** of each type of PPE they are required to use.
- Where workers must wear more than one item of PPE simultaneously, confirm that the items are **compatible** and do not compromise each other's effectiveness.
- Maintain **records of PPE issued** to each worker. Provide clean, dedicated storage for PPE when not in use.

SECTION 12: WORKER HYGIENE

Good personal hygiene practices are an important administrative control that prevents workers from carrying RCS home on their bodies, hair, and clothing, thereby protecting their families from secondary exposure.

- Provide dedicated, clean **storage facilities for work clothing**, clearly separated from workers' personal clothing storage. Clean and dirty clothing must never be stored together.
- Provide adequate **toilet, hand-washing, and shower facilities** within or immediately adjacent to the fabrication area, along with personal lockers.
- Workers must **wash their hands and face thoroughly** before eating, drinking, or smoking, and remove overalls or work clothing before entering eating areas.
- Designate a **specific, clean eating area** completely separate from all fabrication and processing zones where workers can eat, drink, and take breaks.
- Provide workers with an **adequate supply of clean work clothing**, including spare outfits. Workers must wear overalls or work clothing made from **tightly woven, dust-resistant fabric** to prevent silica dust absorption.
- **Work clothing contaminated with silica dust must never be laundered at home** alongside personal or family clothing. Use a professional industrial laundering service for all work clothing.
- **Do not use compressed air to clean overalls or work clothing** – this re-aerosolizes silica dust and creates a serious inhalation hazard.
- Workers must not smoke inside any area of the fabrication facility.

- At the end of the work shift, workers should **clean up thoroughly, shower if necessary**, and change into clean personal clothing before leaving the workplace.

SECTION 13: TRAINING AND INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES

Under OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1053, employers are legally required to provide training to all workers who may be occupationally exposed to respirable crystalline silica. Training must be provided before initial job assignment and repeated annually thereafter.

Required training content:

- The health hazards associated with RCS exposure, including silicosis, lung cancer, COPD, and kidney disease.
- The specific tasks performed at the facility that can generate RCS exposure, and the Ultra Stones products involved.
- The engineering controls, work practices, and administrative controls in place, and the reasons those controls must be used correctly and consistently.
- The correct selection, fitting, use, maintenance, and limitations of all required PPE, including respirators.
- The purpose and procedures of the facility's dust monitoring program and what to do if individual exposure results are elevated.
- How to access and understand Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all Ultra Stones products processed at the facility.
- Safe operating procedures for all relevant equipment, machinery, and tools.
- Workers' rights under OSHA regarding hazard communication, access to exposure records, and medical surveillance.

Training program requirements:

- All new employees must complete a **comprehensive orientation session** covering all health and safety aspects before beginning any work involving RCS-generating tasks.
- Use a **variety of training methods** – including visual aids, videos, demonstrations, group discussions, and written handouts – to maximize comprehension.
- Assess workers' understanding at the **end of each training session** to confirm they have absorbed the material.
- Provide **annual refresher training** and additional training whenever there is a change in job assignments, processes, controls, or regulations.
- **Training attendance must be documented** and records retained. Workers should be invited to provide feedback on training content and delivery.
- If a worker's personal exposure monitoring result exceeds the OSHA PEL or Action Level, that worker must be promptly **informed of their result** in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1053(j).
- Establish and document corrective action plans in response to elevated exposure results, and conduct follow-up measurements within the required timeframes.

SECTION 14: HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1053 requires employers to make medical surveillance available at no cost to workers who are exposed at or above the action level ($25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ TWA) for 30 or more days per year, or who show signs or symptoms of silica-related disease.

Medical surveillance is a critical tool for early detection of silica-related illness and for evaluating the ongoing effectiveness of exposure controls.

OSHA-required medical surveillance elements:

Initial medical examination at the time of initial assignment (or within 30 days of initial assignment) for workers meeting the exposure threshold.

Periodic medical examinations at the following intervals: – Every 3 years for workers under age 45 – Every 2 years for workers aged 45–65 – Annually for workers over age 65 or within 5 years of anticipated retirement

- Each medical examination must include, at a minimum:
- A medical and work history with emphasis on respiratory symptoms and history of exposure to RCS, dust, or other hazardous agents.
- A physical examination with focus on the respiratory system.
- **Spirometry** (pulmonary function testing) to assess lung function.
- **A chest X-ray** reviewed by a NIOSH-certified B-reader (ILO classification).
- Any other tests recommended by the examining physician based on clinical findings.
- Maintain a record of all positions and job roles with potential RCS exposure, and ensure all affected workers are enrolled in the medical surveillance program.
- Retain **medical surveillance records for the duration of employment plus 30 years**, as required by OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1020.
- The examining physician must provide a written medical opinion to both the employer and the worker. Employers must use physician recommendations to implement any required work restrictions or accommodations.
- As always, employers are required to comply with all applicable federal and state occupational health and medical surveillance laws and regulations.

Legal Compliance and Safety Requirements

Fabricators and installers of Ultra Stones products agree to comply, at all times, with all applicable U.S. federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances governing the handling, processing, storage, fabrication, and disposal of Ultra Stones products. In particular, fabricators must conduct periodic risk assessments of all jobs and implement appropriate measures to control identified risks.

Fabricators and installers acknowledge and understand that: fabrication of these materials – especially through dry cutting – releases airborne particles including respirable crystalline silica that may cause silicosis, lung cancer, and other serious illnesses. **Ultra Stones LLC strongly recommends that fabricators adopt all appropriate precautions, including wet cutting, wet grinding, wet milling, and wet polishing, to reduce the risk of RCS inhalation.**

REFERENCES AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Ultra Stones Safety Data Sheets (SDS) – available at www.ultrastones.com or by contacting info@ultrastones.com
- OSHA Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for General Industry – 29 CFR 1910.1053: www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline
- OSHA Hazard Communication Standard – 29 CFR 1910.1200: www.osha.gov/hazcom
- OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard – 29 CFR 1910.134: www.osha.gov/respiratory-protection
- OSHA Occupational Noise Exposure Standard – 29 CFR 1910.95
- NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards – Silica, Crystalline: www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npgd0684.html
- NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin 6x3 – Occupational Exposure to Titanium Dioxide
- Cal/OSHA – Respirable Crystalline Silica, Title 8 Section 5204: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/respiratory-silica-FAQ.html
- California Proposition 65 – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov
- Ultra Stones Installer Health & Safety Guide – available from Ultra Stones LLC

Disclaimer: The recommendations and guidance in this document constitute a practical reference for the implementation of organizational, technical, and safety measures. This guide is not exhaustive and does not substitute the legal obligations of employers and workers under applicable U.S. federal and state occupational health and safety regulations, including but not limited to: formal risk assessments, corrective action planning, technical safety reports, worker information and training programs, preventive medical care, and health surveillance. Ultra Stones LLC accepts no liability for incidents arising from failure to follow the recommendations in this guide or to comply with applicable law. Always consult a qualified Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) or licensed occupational health and safety professional for site-specific guidance.