

6 October 2023

**Statement from Cosentino Spokesperson:**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to answer your questions about Cosentino products used in this season of The Block.

To your question regarding the benchtops used in the laundries, as stated in the February 2023 SafeWork Australia Decision Regulation Impact Statement on managing the risks of respirable crystalline silica at work:

*"The model work health and safety laws have been implemented in all jurisdictions except Victoria.*

*Commonwealth and state and territory WHS regulators oversee and enforce the laws in their jurisdictions."*

See page 12: [https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/decision\\_ris\\_-\\_managing\\_the\\_risks\\_of\\_crystalline\\_silica\\_at\\_work\\_-\\_for\\_publication\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/decision_ris_-_managing_the_risks_of_crystalline_silica_at_work_-_for_publication_pdf.pdf)

Victoria has chosen their own definition of engineered stone, currently the strictest in the world, referenced in the WorkSafe Victoria correspondence.

The Block is filmed in Victoria and operates under the current Victoria work health and safety laws.

Silestone, as referenced in the WorkSafe Victoria correspondence, falls outside the definition of engineered stone because it has less than 40% silica, therefore exceeding the current requirements of the Victorian law.

To your question about the proportion of silica contained in the Silestone colours used in the show, and which specific houses are using Silestone, we can confirm that all Silestone and Dekton products we supply in Australia, including to this season of The Block, have less than 40% silica content.

More than 80% of the man-made stone used in this season of The Block contains less than 10% crystalline silica content.

These products provide some of the strongest protections to workers anywhere in the world.

Also, we would like to clarify that Dekton is not a natural stone, and we did not say it's natural stone.

Dekton is an ultra-compact surface.

We said we supplied three different products, Silestone, Dekton and natural stone.

Dekton has between 6%-11% silica compared to natural stone, like granite, that can have up to 45% silica.

Silestone has been used in three houses for their laundry.

House 2 has chosen SILESTONE OCEAN JASPER which level of silica of this colour is 3.3%.

Houses 3 and 5 have chosen respectively SILESTONE ETHEREAL HAZE and SILESTONE BLANCO MAPLE which silica content is averaging 33-34%.