

5 October 2023

**Statement from Kate Cole OAM, Certified Occupational Hygienist:**

We have reviewed the information and scientific evidence available and it tells us that a percentage of crystalline silica in engineered stone that is protective of worker health, or “safe” cannot be determined.

It would not be accurate to suggest that engineered stone, containing crystalline silica, is a “safe” product, nor that it could be safely installed without putting workers health at risk.

Comparing engineered stone to “beach sand” in a way to suggest that it is safe, is not accurate. Silica dust refers to fine dust that can be breathed in and is generated whenever engineered stone is cut or polished for example. If one were to generate a dust from beach sand (such as in sandblasting), then those workers would be at significant risk of silicosis...which is why using crystalline silica for sandblasting is prohibited under safety legislation.