

# Hazard Alert for Countertop Workers:

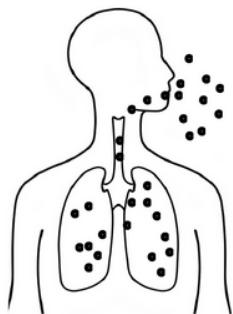
## Silica dust from countertop work can harm you!



### Do you make countertops using artificial stone?

#### **You might be breathing dangerous dust.**

- Artificial stone (also called engineered stone or quartz) is the most dangerous kind of countertop stone to work with. It has high amounts of silica.
- Cutting, grinding, and polishing these countertops puts silica dust in the air.



#### **This can cause a deadly lung disease called silicosis.**

- Silica dust is unsafe to breathe. When the dust gets into your lungs, it can cause a disease called silicosis. Silicosis makes it hard to breathe. This gets worse over time and can cause death. There is no cure.
- Your workplace must follow steps to protect you from silica dust.

### What can you do?



#### **Know your rights to a safe workplace.**

- You have the right to a workplace without known hazards that can harm your health or safety.
- Learn how workplaces must protect you at [Silica Dust Safety](#).
- If your workplace is unsafe, you can report it to [OSHA](#) ([osha.gov/workers](https://www.osha.gov/workers)).

Scan QR code to learn about silica dust workplace safety:



[bit.ly/silica-safety](https://bit.ly/silica-safety)



#### **If you have breathing problems, go to the doctor.**

- If you have a cough or trouble breathing, see a doctor right away. These can be signs of silicosis. Tell them you're exposed to silica dust at work. Bring this Hazard Alert with you.

#### **Always tell doctors about your job.**

- Always tell doctors about your job – even if you don't feel sick. That way they know to check for health issues that could be related to your job.

### **Learn more about silicosis and workplace safety:**

- [Information on silica](https://www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline) ([osha.gov/silica-crystalline](https://www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline))
- [Safety Alert on Silica Dust from Massachusetts](https://bit.ly/silica-alert-mass) ([bit.ly/silica-alert-mass](https://bit.ly/silica-alert-mass))

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

