

**Artificial Stone Countertops: Exposures, Controls, Surveillance, &
Translation (Information Collection Request -- OMB # XXXX-XXXX)**

**Request for Office of Management and Budget Review and
Approval for Federally Sponsored Data Collection**

Section B

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B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

B.1 Respondent universe and sampling methods

The respondent universe of interest for the proposed study includes all U.S. workplaces where artificial stone countertops are fabricated. Potential online or telephone interview respondents will be identified through internet research, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), or other industry-related trade organizations or groups. This is an initial information collection request. Approval is being requested for a three year period (2022-2025).

For the proposed study, our objective is to conduct online or telephone interviews with U.S. workplaces where artificial stone countertops are fabricated to gain a detailed understanding of their work practices, exposure mitigation strategies currently used, and knowledge of related health and safety recommendations and regulations. Contracted interviewers under the direction of Science and Technical Support Services Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA). Common workplace characteristics that will be targeted include: work materials, practices, and processes; company production and organizational characteristics; and current control technologies or medical surveillance protocols or policies. Workplaces choosing to participate in the survey will be invited to participate in future industrial hygiene and/or medical monitoring research.

B.2 Procedures for the collection of information

For interviews proposed in this study, all U.S. workplaces identified during industry research to fabricate artificial stone countertop products will be considered potential participants. All U.S. workplaces identified as artificial stone countertop fabrications will be invited to participate in the survey. Once workplaces are identified, contractor staff will contact participating workplaces to request contact information and send a pre-survey letter notifying them of the study. For workplaces willing to participate in the survey, interviews will be conducted through contracts with trained interviewers. The survey will collect company-level information, individuals participating in the survey will be speaking from their role at the workplace providing information about work practices. Data collected through the survey will be used in descriptive statistics methods such as, means, quantiles, variance or dispersion, standard deviation, univariate analysis, and regression models.

B.2.1 Collection of interview data

Experienced interviewers will be contracted through a Science and Technical Support Services BPA. Prior to conducting surveys, interviewers will receive additional training specific to the artificial stone countertop fabrication questionnaire. Prior to being contacted by telephone, potential participating workplaces will receive a letter describing the study and options for participation (Attachment 4). Also, if the potential participant initially declines to participate, the interview script will include text that provides more detail about the study and its importance, allowing time for the respondent to reconsider the initial refusal.

B.2.2 Data quality control

Data within the interview dataset will be reviewed for logical consistency and continuity. Finally, an assessment of the participants versus non-participants in the interview portion of the study may be made to determine potential non-response bias.

B.3 Methods to maximize response rates and deal with nonresponse

To maximize response rates and address nonresponse, we will take the following steps to facilitate respondents' willingness to participate:

1. Sending a letter/brochure describing the study to potential workplaces in advance of the initial phone call. The brochure will include information on requesting their participation in our survey. The brochure will emphasize the importance of participation.
2. Making at least 5 attempts to reach potential respondents. The contact attempts will be made within business hours Monday through Friday. After 3 contact attempts, the workplace will be marked in the workplace contact database, and we will 2 additional follow ups after several months.
3. Use trained interviews who are experienced at conducting surveys. This will facilitate ease of survey participation for the respondent, increasing the likelihood they will complete the survey in its entirety.
4. Developing a survey designed to be as easy and non-burdensome as possible to the respondents. This includes ordering questions in a logical sequence and asking only questions that serve the study objectives and analysis purposes.

Should we experience a low response rate, we will compare the information we have on respondents and non-respondents to attempt to identify any potential response bias.

B.4 Tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken

The survey was reviewed and discussed with researchers internal and external to NIOSH with expertise in developing surveys to collect information on workplace practices and knowledge of the countertop fabrication industry. Consultations on the type of information to be collected have taken place starting in 2019 and have continued throughout project planning and protocol development. Collaborators from California Department of Public Health include Kristin Cummings (Kristin.Cummings@cdph.ca.gov), Amy Heinzerling (Amy.Heinzerling@cdph.ca.gov), and Robert Harrison (Robert.Harrison@ucsf.edu).

B.5 Individuals consulted on statistical aspects and individuals collecting and/or analyzing data

Contact information for those responsible for design, collection, and analysis of survey data.

Individuals who designed the data collection

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Individuals who will collect the data

Contracted staff and contracted interviewers under the direction of Science and Technical Support Services BPA.

Individuals who will analyze the data

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