



# Artificial Stone Countertop Facility Survey

## Who is NIOSH?

### NIOSH

- is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, a federal public health agency.
- is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent work-related illness.
- is **not** part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
- does **not** enforce workplace health and safety laws.

## Why is NIOSH contacting you?

- NIOSH is contacting stone fabricators to share information about silica exposure.
- Breathing silica dust can cause the lung disease silicosis.
- Cases of accelerated silicosis have been reported among stone fabrication workers in the U.S.
- Crystalline silica is found in engineered stone and other stone materials.
- When workers cut, grind, drill, or polish stone materials, they may inhale very small crystalline silica particles which can cause lung damage, permanent disability, and death.
- Silicosis can be prevented through actions to reduce silica dust exposure, such as protective equipment.

## What else is NIOSH doing?

- NIOSH is actively working to support health and safety measures among engineered stone fabricators.
- In addition to sharing information about silica exposure, NIOSH is trying to talk with fabricators about work practices to increase our understanding of the industry and potential silica exposures.
- NIOSH would like to talk with you about your work practices as part of our workplace survey.
- NIOSH will use survey information from all participating workplaces to better understand ways to protect workers from exposure to crystalline silica.
- Your company information **will not** be shared with other companies, and NIOSH **will not directly identify** your workplace in study findings.

## How can I participate?

- Participation is **voluntary**.
- If you are interested in participating, NIOSH or individuals working with NIOSH will reach out by phone, mail, or email to discuss the project and how to participate.

## How can I get more information?

- More information about artificial stone materials and crystalline silica can be found at:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/infotext.html>
- More information about NIOSH can be found at:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/about/default.html>
- For questions or more information about our project, contact:
  - Alyson Fortner, [afortner@cdc.gov](mailto:afortner@cdc.gov) or 304.285.5851.
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