

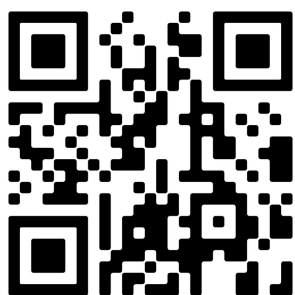
# Do You Work with Artificial Stone Slabs?



## Respirator Guide to Protect Against Exposure to Silica Dust

Silica dust is a highly toxic substance that can lead to fatal diseases, such as silicosis. Workers may breathe in silica dust when cutting, drilling, or grinding artificial stone slabs, which are often used for countertops. Wearing the correct respirator is important to protect yourself from breathing in silica dust.

All workers have a right to request and wear personal protective equipment to prevent exposure to known hazards at work. Employers must provide respirators at no cost and must implement a respiratory protection program. The program must include a designated program administrator, procedures for selecting respirators, medical evaluations, training, fit testing, and recordkeeping. For more information about respiratory protection, scan the QR code below, or visit: [www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/respiratory-silica-FAQ.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/respiratory-silica-FAQ.html).



# DO YOU WORK WITH ARTIFICIAL STONE SLABS?

## RESPIRATOR GUIDE TO PROTECT AGAINST EXPOSURE TO SILICA DUST

### Choosing the best respirator for stonework is essential to minimize exposure to silica dust

#### MOST PROTECTION



**Tight-Fitting Full Face Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)**

- Required by Cal/OSHA.
- Provides protection for high-risk tasks including cutting, drilling, chipping, sanding, and grinding on artificial stone.
- If a worker is confirmed or suspected of silicosis, the employer must provide a full face, tight-fitting, supplied-air respirator in pressure-demand or as recommended by a healthcare provider.



**Loose-fitting Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)**

- Required by Cal/OSHA.
- Provides protection against high-risk tasks including cutting, drilling, chipping, sanding, and grinding on artificial stone.
- Must be combined with air sampling by the employer every six months to ensure workers' exposure to silica dust is consistently below Cal/OSHA standards.

#### PARTIAL PROTECTION



**Elastomeric Full Facepiece Respirator**

- Provides protection against high-risk tasks involving artificial stone.
- Must be combined with air sampling by the employer every six months to ensure workers' exposure to silica dust is consistently below Cal/OSHA standards.



**Elastomeric Half Facepiece Respirator**

- When combined with wet methods like wet integrated delivery systems and tools, it provides partial silica dust protection for high-risk tasks involving artificial stone.

#### MINIMAL PROTECTION



**N-95 Respirator**

- Should not be used for respiratory protection from breathing in silica dust.
- Does not provide adequate protection against silica dust.

*Disclaimer: The tight- and loose-fitting PAPRs are the required respiratory protection for silica dust prevention under Cal/OSHA's standards. The other respirators listed do not provide adequate protection against silica dust.*

