



---

## Urgent call to ban kitchen worktops due to silicosis risk

### Description

The call to ban a commonly used material in kitchen worktops has been made by medical professionals after a surge in cases of an incurable disease associated with its production. This material, artificial stone, is cheaper than natural options like granite or marble but contains higher levels of silica. Workers who cut artificial stone are at risk of inhaling silica dust, leading to the development of silicosis, a potentially fatal lung condition. The UK has reported its first cases of silicosis linked to artificial stone cutting, prompting urgent action to protect workers.

Dr. Jo Feary, a leading expert in occupational lung diseases, highlighted the urgency of addressing this issue, especially as the disease is affecting young individuals with no current treatment available. The prevalence of artificial stone in the market has raised concerns about the lack of proper safety measures and training among workers.

Countries like Australia have already banned engineered stone due to the rising cases of silicosis, emphasizing the critical need for prevention. Research has shown that reducing exposure to silica dust can help prevent the disease, necessitating stricter regulations and enforcement in the workplace.

The tragic death of one patient from the UK cases underscores the severity of silicosis and the challenges it poses to healthcare professionals. Proposals for a ban on artificial stone in the UK, similar to Australia's approach, have been put forward to protect workers and prevent further cases.

Efforts by regulatory bodies like the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to raise awareness and implement measures to manage exposure to hazardous substances are crucial in safeguarding workers' health. Collaborative actions are necessary to address this growing health concern and prevent future cases of silicosis in the workplace.

---

### Vocabulary List:

1. **Surge** /sɜːrdʒ/ (noun): A sudden increase or rise.
2. **Incurable** /ɪn'kjʊr.ə.bəl/ (adjective): Not able to be cured or healed.
3. **Silicosis** /,sɪlɪ'kɒsɪs/ (noun): A lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust.
4. **Prevalence** /'prɛv.ə.ləns/ (noun): The commonness or widespread occurrence of a condition.
5. **Regulations** /,rɛg.jʊ'leɪ.ʃənz/ (noun): Rules or directives made and maintained by an authority.
6. **Collaborative** /kə'læb.ə.reɪ.tɪv/ (adjective): Involving two or more parties working together.



---

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Which material is being called to be banned due to a surge in cases of an incurable disease?  
Option: Granite  
Option: Marble  
Option: Artificial stone  
Option: Wood
2. What is the risk associated with workers cutting artificial stone?  
Option: Chemical burns  
Option: Inhaling silica dust  
Option: Allergic reactions  
Option: None of the above
3. Which country has already banned engineered stone due to cases of silicosis?  
Option: UK  
Option: USA  
Option: Australia  
Option: Canada
4. What is the potential consequence of inhaling silica dust from cutting artificial stone?  
Option: Asthma  
Option: Lung cancer  
Option: Silicosis  
Option: Heart disease
5. What is one impact of silicosis on affected individuals?  
Option: Cured easily with medication  
Option: Heart disease prevention  
Option: Fatal lung condition  
Option: Skin rashes
6. What is emphasized as a critical need based on research findings?  
Option: Enhancing workplace aesthetics  
Option: Improving worker benefits



Option: Preventing exposure to silica dust

Option: Expansion of production facilities

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Artificial stone 2. Inhaling silica dust 3. Australia 4. Silicosis 5. Fatal lung condition  
6. Preventing exposure to silica dust

## Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. Which word means extremely painful or intense?

Option: Excruciating

Option: Complications

Option: Alleviate

Option: Consumption

2. Which word means failure to take proper care?

Option: Negligence

Option: Culprit

Option: Silicosis

Option: Collaborative

3. Which word describes breathing too quickly or deeply?

Option: Hyperventilating

Option: Panic

Option: Reframe

Option: Mortality

4. Which word refers to the ability to be maintained at a certain rate?

Option: Sustainability

Option: Ordeal

Option: Incidence

Option: Prevalence

5. Which word relates to the heart and blood vessels?

Option: Cardiovascular

Option: Consumption

Option: Surge



---

Option: Micro-simulation

6. Which word means persisting for a long time or constantly recurring?

Option: Chronic

Option: Intensity

Option: Dysmorphia

Option: Incidence

7. Which word means the proportion of a population found to have a condition?

Option: Prevalence

Option: Surge

Option: Regulations

Option: Complications

8. Which word refers to the imitation of a situation or process?

Option: Simulation

Option: Colorectal

Option: Silicosis

Option: Predispose

9. Which word signifies the quality of being extreme in degree?

Option: Intensity

Option: Coping

Option: Surge

Option: Alleviate

10. Which word means to make suffering deficiency or a problem less severe?

Option: Alleviate

Option: Mortality

Option: Panic

Option: Refill

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The surgery was successful but there were unexpected \_\_\_\_\_ afterwards.

12. Going through a divorce can be an emotional \_\_\_\_\_ for many people.

13. There was a sudden \_\_\_\_\_ in demand for the product after the announcement.

14. The doctors informed the patient that the disease was \_\_\_\_\_ .



15. The government introduced new \_\_\_\_\_ to improve workplace safety.
16. The researchers used \_\_\_\_\_ to model the impact of policy changes on traffic flow.
17. The study focused on the factors affecting infant \_\_\_\_\_ rates.
18. Excessive sugar \_\_\_\_\_ is linked to various health issues.
19. The new medical center specializes in the treatment of \_\_\_\_\_ disorders.
20. Patients with body \_\_\_\_\_ often have a distorted perception of their appearance.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. During emergencies it is important not to give in to fear and .
22. The movie carried a message about the consequences of reckless driving.
23. The project's success was due to the efforts of the team members.
24. The _____ of the disease has been increasing in recent years.
25. Genetic factors can _____ individuals to certain health conditions.
26. After thorough investigation the police identified the _____ behind the robbery.
27. Workers exposed to silica dust are at risk of developing _____ .
28. The _____ of the storm caused widespread damage in the coastal area.
29. There was a sudden _____ in donations after the fundraising event.
30. Promoting renewable energy is crucial for the long-term _____ of the planet.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Excruciating 2. Negligence 3. Hyperventilating 4. Sustainability 5. Cardiovascular 6. Chronic 7. Prevalence 8. Simulation 9. Intensity 10. Alleviate

**Gap-Fill:** 11. complications 12. ordeal 13. surge 14. incurable 15. regulations 16. micro-simulation 17. mortality 18. consumption 19. colorectal 20. dysmorphia

**Matching sentence:** 1. panic 2. cautionary 3. collaborative 4. incidence 5. predispose 6. culprit 7. silicosis 8. intensity



9. surge 10. sustainability

**CATEGORY**

1. Health - LEVEL5

**Date Created**

2024/08/08

**Author**

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM