

Intended for healthcare professionals

News

Doctors call for ban on cutting artificial stone after reporting first UK cases of silicosis

BMJ 2024; 386 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.q1755> (Published 07 August 2024) Cite this as: BMJ 2024;386:q1755

- [Article](#)
- [Related content](#)
- [Metrics](#)
- [Responses](#)
- [Peer review](#)
- [✉](#)

Jacqui Wise

[Author affiliations](#)

Experts have called on the UK government to follow Australia's lead in banning artificial stone worktops, after the first UK cases of silicosis linked to their manufacture were reported.

Since 2010, cases of silicosis due to artificial stone have been reported from Israel, Spain, Italy, the US, China, Australia, and Belgium. Although artificial stone has been used in the UK for a similar length of time the country reported no cases until mid-2023, when eight men were referred to the occupational lung disease department at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London.

A case series report published in the journal *Thorax*¹ says that the eight men had a median age of 34 (range 27 to 56) and had been dry cutting and polishing artificial stone worktops (also called countertops) with inadequate safety measures. Most of the men were migrant workers and were vulnerable to exploitation in the workplace, the study authors reported, and all worked for small companies with fewer than 10 employees.

The average time of exposure to stone dust was 12.5 ...

[View Full Text](#)

Log in

Log in using your username and password

[BMA Member Log In](#)

If you have a subscription to The BMJ, log in:

Username *

Password *

[Forgot your log in details?](#)

- [Need to activate](#)
- [Log in via institution](#)
- [Log in via OpenAthens](#)

Log in through your institution

Subscribe from £184 *

Subscribe and get access to all BMJ articles, and much more.

[Subscribe](#)

* For online subscription

Access this article for 1 day for:

£50 / \$60/ €56 (excludes VAT)

You can download a PDF version for your personal record.

[Buy this article](#)

- Post
- Like 0

Article tools

[PDF responses](#)

- [Respond to this article](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Alerts & updates](#)

Article alerts

Please note: your email address is provided to the journal, which may use this information for marketing purposes.

Log in or register:

Username *

Password *

[Register for alerts](#)

- If you have registered for alerts, you should use your registered email address as your username
- [Citation tools](#)

Download this article to citation manager

Wise J. Doctors call for ban on cutting artificial stone after reporting first UK cases of silicosis BMJ 2024; 386 :q1755 doi:10.1136/bmj.q1755

- [BibTeX \(win & mac\)](#)
- [EndNote \(tagged\)](#)
- [EndNote 8 \(xml\)](#)
- [RefWorks Tagged \(win & mac\)](#)
- [RIS \(win only\)](#)
- [Medlars](#)

[Download](#)
[Download](#)
[Download](#)
[Download](#)
[Download](#)
[Download](#)

Help

If you are unable to import citations, please contact technical support for your product directly (links go to external sites):

- [EndNote](#)
- [ProCite](#)
- [Reference Manager](#)
- [RefWorks](#)
- [Zotero](#)

- [Request permissions](#)

- [Author citation](#)
- [Articles by Jacqui Wise](#)
- [Add article to BMJ Portfolio](#)

[Email to a friend](#)

Forward this page

Thank you for your interest in spreading the word about The BMJ.

NOTE: We only request your email address so that the person you are recommending the page to knows that you wanted them to see it, and that it is not junk mail. We do not capture any email address.

Username *

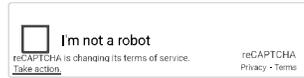
Your Email *

Send To *

You are going to email the following [Doctors call for ban on cutting artificial stone after reporting first UK cases of silicosis](#)
 Your Personal Message

CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether or not you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.



Topics

- [Respiratory medicine](#)



Who is talking about this article?



[See more details](#)



This week's poll

Should medical students be encouraged to use generative artificial intelligence to study?

- Yes
- No

[Vote](#) [View Results](#)

[Read](#) related article

[See](#) previous polls

Other content recommended for you

Australia bans engineered stone because of silicosis risk

Bianca Nogrady, The BMJ, 2023

Radiological progression and lung function in silicosis: a ten year follow up study.

T P Ng, The BMJ, 1987

What causes cryptogenic fibrosing alveolitis? A case-control study of environmental exposure to dust.

J Scott, The BMJ, 1990

Silica exposure and rheumatoid arthritis: a follow up study of granite workers 1940-81.

Matti Klockars, Riitta-Sisko Koskela, Erkki Järvinen, et al., The BMJ, 1987

Occupational cancer kills more than 200 000 people a year

Kaushal Raj Pandey, The BMJ, 2007

Silica health surveillance: a new approach 

Evelyn Lee, Occupational Medicine, 2022

Artificial Stone Silicosis: Need for Improved Controls 

Rachael M Jones, Annals of Work Exposures and Health, 2022

Silica Exposure Estimates in Artificial Stone Benchtop Fabrication and Adverse Respiratory Outcomes 

Deborah C Glass, Annals of Work Exposures and Health, 2021

P-152 INVESTIGATING NOTIFIED SILICOSIS CASES ENABLE EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTIVE ACTION 

Mahinda Seneviratne, Occupational Medicine, 2024

Determinants of Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure Among Stoneworkers Involved in Stone Restoration Work 

Catherine B, Healy, Annals of Work Exposures and Health, 2013

Powered by **TREND MD**



[Back to top](#)