FABRICATORS & All Customers

Silica Dust & Health Controls

- **Wet Methods Only:** Always use an abundant, continuous flow of water during cutting, grinding, and polishing to keep dust from becoming airborne. Dry cutting is strictly prohibited.
- **No Dry Sweeping:** Wet mop or use vacuums equipped with HEPA filters to clean up the shop floor.
- **Mandatory PPE:** Workers must wear appropriate respiratory protection—such as tight-fitting, full-face Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)—along with safety goggles, ear protection, and gloves.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Adhere strictly to **OSHA** standards and regulations for silica exposure. Review the Local Department of Public Health Guidelines for specific high-exposure trigger task rules.
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Material Handling & Storage

- **Acclimation:** Store quartz slabs indoors and let them acclimate to the shop's temperature for at least 48 hours prior to fabrication to prevent breakage from thermal shock.
- **Rack Safety:** Do not stack more than 20 slabs on an inventory rack, and ensure protective padding covers all contact points.
- **Lifting:** Use mechanical lifting equipment (like vacuum lifters or A-frame carts) to handle slabs heavier than 20 kg to avoid injury.

Fabrication & Structural Rules

- **Tool Maintenance:** Check that all tools are in good working condition. Any equipment exposed to water must be equipped with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).
- **Cutout Margins:** To prevent cracking and maintain structural integrity during transport and installation, ensure cutouts for sinks and cooktops leave a minimum of 2.5 inches (64 mm) of quartz surrounding the cutout.
- **Edge Polishing:** Properly polish all edges and corners to prevent stress concentrations that could cause the slab to fracture after installation.

Would you like information on **specific PPE vendors**, details on **OSHA compliance standards**, or guidelines for **installing finished quartz countertops**?