



**NATROCCIA®**

*by* TALOSTONE®

# FABRICATION, INSTALLATION SAFETY & HEALTH PROTECTION GUIDE



# Talostone® Natroccia® Fabrication & Installation, Safety & Health Protection Guide

## **Important Notes!**

This Guide includes safety and health information and recommendations. However, it does not serve as professional advice, nor does it replace any stonemason's personal responsibility to apply all relevant health and safety measures. To protect the health and safety of all employees exposed to silica dust, it is always necessary to consult with a local advisor. All stonemasons, who work on Talostone® Natroccia® slabs, agree that their business operations already meet SafeWork Australia and OHS Australia standards prior to purchasing and fabricating Talostone® Natroccia® products. Talostone® reserves all rights and are not to be held liable for any consequences to stonemasons who do not meet SafeWork Australia and OHS Australian standards.

Distribution:

Stonemason/Installer

Architect/Designer

Developer/Builder

Kitchen/Joinery Company

## Introduction

Talostone® Natroccia® offer a stunning range of high quality, luxurious Natural stone options. From timeless marbles to dramatic quartzites, Talostone® Natroccia® Range offers exquisite solutions for almost any application.

Our customers choose Talostone® Natroccia® for its premium quality, superior colouring and unique selection. Whatever the colour scheme of your kitchen, bathroom, interior or exterior space, there is a Talostone® Natroccia® colour to match your design.

This Fabrication & Installation Guide is to provide stone masons and installers with the necessary information and guidance to safely and correctly fabricate and install Talostone® Natroccia® products. However, it is vital that all regulations and guidelines set forth by federal and local governments as well as SafeWork Australia and OHS regulations are strictly adhered to, overriding any advice set forth in this document.

This manual is published by Talostone® to inform stonemasons with our recommendations for fabricating and installing bench tops and cladding from slabs supplied directly by Talostone®. This manual does not replace state and local industry standards for the fabrication and installation.

**Under no circumstance shall Talostone® Natroccia® slabs be allowed to be re-sold to anyone.** Talostone® is the only Company distributing our slabs to stonemasons directly. The terms and conditions of sale to stonemasons, designers and end users are set forth in this manual. Please direct any questions about the recommendations in this manual to Talostone® Head Office.

© 2025 Talostone® stone products. All rights reserved.

*No parts of this work may be reproduced in any form or by any means – graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems – without the written permission of Talostone®.*

*Products that are referred to in this document may be either trademarks and/or registered trademarks of the respective owners. The publisher and the author make no claim to these trademarks.*

*Talostone® and its assigned are not responsible for errors or omissions, nor for any damages incurred whilst following information contained in this document. In no event shall the publisher and the author be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damage caused or alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly as a result of any person relying upon any information contained in this document. All work carried out by any user of this manual on any Talostone® product must be done in accordance with all laws and regulations relating to that work and the specific Talostone® product, including but not limited to, occupational health and safety laws and laws relating to the protection of persons and the environment.*

*This manual supersedes all previous manuals. Content is subject to change at any time without notice. The use of the term “Distributor” and “we” throughout this document refers to Talostone Pty Ltd. Talostone® is a registered trademark of Talostone Pty Ltd, ACN 162 170 194.*

*Version N2025.v1*

*Effective Date: 01<sup>st</sup> May, 2025*

## Contents

General Product information .....	6	Other Information & Disclaimers .....	21
Technical Information .....	7	<b>FABRICATION INSTRUCTIONS .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Slab Return Policy .....	7	Tools and Safety Equipment .....	24
Safety Guidelines .....	8	Basic Fabrication Guidelines .....	25
Handling .....	9	Internal Corners .....	25
Vehicle Loads .....	10	Cut-outs .....	26
Securing the Load .....	10	Pit Burners .....	27
Storage .....	10	Splash Back Clearance .....	27
Visual Slab Inspection & Identification .....	11	Drainage Grooves .....	28
Colour Matching .....	11	Joins & Edge Profiles .....	30
Quartz Pattern Irregularity .....	12	Transportation .....	33
Batch Numbering .....	12	<b>INSTALLATION PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>34</b>
OSHA .....	13	Overhangs .....	37
Truck Driver Requirements .....	13	<b>Structural support .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>PERSONAL HEALTH &amp; SAFETY .....</b>	<b>14</b>	Walls .....	39
<b>Respirable Crystalline Silica .....</b>	<b>14</b>	Flooring .....	39
General Prevention Principles. ....	16	Fireplace Cladding .....	40
Ventilation & Filtration System .....	17	Sealing .....	40
Dust Monitoring & Supervision .....	18	After Installation .....	40
Personal Protective Equipment .....	18	<b>CARE &amp; MAINTENANCE. ....</b>	<b>41</b>
Hygiene & Cleaning. ....	19	<b>TERMS &amp; CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>43</b>
Training Employees .....	20	Locations / Contact us .....	47
Health Surveillance .....	21		

## **GENERAL TALOSTONE® NATROCCIA® PRODUCT INFORMATION**

At Talostone®, we understand the importance of safe stone practices as well as ensuring the best quality products to our customers. We want to ensure that our customers are fully informed about the importance of following safe practices to prevent any risk of harm. At Talostone®, we are dedicated to promoting a safer stone industry and we strongly urge the government to implement a national licensing scheme for stone fabricators, as we believe this will help ensure that safe practices are carried out across the industry.

### **Applications**

Talostone® Natroccia® is ideal for a wide range of interior and exterior commercial and residential applications, including those subject to heavy use. Common Talostone® Natroccia® applications include: interior and exterior kitchen bench tops, vanity bench tops, wall panels, feature walls, BBQ bench tops, fireplace cladding and furniture pieces.

Talostone® Natroccia® is suitable for exterior use.

### **Available slab sizes**

As Talostone® Natroccia® is Natural stone, slab sizes are varied and constantly changing pending current block sizes. Please contact our Head Office to confirm current slab sizes for your chosen product.

### **Available slab thicknesses**

All Talostone® Natroccia® products come in 20mm thickness. However, as they are Natural stone, slight thickness variation may arise occasionally (Commonly +/- 2mm). Please contact Head Office to confirm the slab thickness of your chosen product.

The slab dimensions are nominal only. These are to be used for storage and transportation purposes. Actual usable slab surface varies from slab to slab. If you need to use the maximum width and/or length of a slab, you must advise Talostone® when you order and we will check the sizing availability for you. Please inspect the slabs before you cut for polish irregularities, transportation damage or any other defect that may be visible. If a slab proves to be unsuitable, it should be exchanged prior to cutting and within seven days of slab pick up.



## **Product Specifications**

Product Specifications, Data Sheets and other Technical data varies greatly for each Natroccia® product. Please visit our website for customised information relating to each colour/product or contact Head office, either via email at [info@talostone.com.au](mailto:info@talostone.com.au) or via phone on 02 8783 0600.

## **Current Ranges**

- 1 - Low Range (Most economical options)
- 2 - Mid Range (Most commonly used, mid priced options)
- 3 - High Range (Luxury options for luxury builds and renovations)

## **Book matched Slabs**

Most Talostone® Natroccia® colours with distinct veins and patterns are book matched to achieve a continuous design over larger areas. However, As they are Natural stone, the slabs may not be matched 100%. It is the stonemasons responsibility to work on the book matched slabs to achieve the best possible result.

## **Slab Return Policy**

Please refer to the Talostone® Natroccia® Terms & Conditions ([page 43](#)) regarding requirements for returning slabs.

## SAFETY GUIDELINES

Talostone® has always been at the forefront of creating a safe work environment. We require that our stonemasons and installers follow the same level of conscientiousness regarding safety and comply with local and national occupational, health and safety regulations. Adhering to the following simple safety rules will assist in preventing accidents.

- Maintain a clean and neat working environment, complying with all local and national occupational, health and safety regulations.
- Keep work areas uncluttered.
- Keep guards in place and in working order.
- Keep work areas clean, well ventilated and well lit.
- Do not use tools in dangerous environments. All tools which may be exposed to water or moisture must be certified.
- Do not force tools. A tool will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
- Use the right tools. Do not force a tool or attachment to do a job for which it was not designed.
- For your safety, read any relevant instruction manuals prior to operating different tools. Learn the individual tool applications and limitations as well as any potential hazards specific to them.
- Maintain tools in top condition. Keep tools sharp and clean for the safest, most optimal performance. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for things such as lubrication, changing accessories and replacing parts.
- Wear proper apparel. Loose clothing, gloves, neckties, rings, bracelets and other jewellery may get caught in moving parts. Non-slip footwear is a must. Wear hair-protective covering to contain long hair. Wear ear/nose protectors and safety shoes.
- Always wear a high quality face respirator and follow Australian Regulations for proper ventilation to keep the dust level within that of the Australian regulation authorities – natural stone dust contains silica which can be hazardous to your health. **ANY DRY FABRICATING PROCESS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Always shape and cut material with wet tools to reduce the amount of airborne particles.



- Always use safety glasses or approved eye protection. Everyday eyeglasses only have impact-resistant lenses; they are not safety glasses.
- Use high quality clamps to secure work when necessary, freeing both hands to safely operate tools.
- Do not over-reach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- Children and visitors should be kept at a safe distance from any work area.
- Make workshop childproof with padlocks, master switches and removing starter keys.

*Regarding safe work regulations, please refer to,*

**<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/>**



## **HANDLING**

The slabs are best loaded/unloaded from a container or truck using a forklift or lifting device capable of handling at least 1000Kg.

Slab handling can be carried out either singularly or in multiples depending on your equipment specifications. Use clamps or sling straps and lift the slabs face-to-face to reduce the risk of damage to the stone surface finish. For better grip, take care to clasp the slabs from the back side (whilst face-to-face). Only work in accordance with your clamp supplier's instructions.

Because of the weight, proper safety shoes and gloves should be worn.

***Warning:*** *Keep a safe distance when handling/lifting the slabs and never be situated under the slabs at any time.*

## Vehicle Loads

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that the load is within the legal carrying capacity of the vehicle, Talostone® have no way of determining this at our premises. Slab weights vary significantly between different Natroccia® products but as a guide, you must allow approximately 370Kg per 20mm slab plus the weight of any other items already loaded on the vehicle.

## Securing the Load

It is the responsibility of the Driver to ensure that the load is fully supported and safely secured to the vehicle prior to leaving our premises. Talostone® staff are not permitted to secure the load to your vehicle.

## Storage

Talostone® Natroccia® slabs must be stored in a manner that prevents warping.

Slabs should be stored so that the product is kept in a perfectly uniform manner, minimising any warping.

Slabs must always be stored in a way that ensures the polished surface is not exposed to direct sunlight. It is necessary to store the slabs in a shaded area and to keep the last slabs in each rack in a position in which the backside is facing out. Storage temperatures should not exceed 55°C.

At the stonemasons storage facility, there should be no more than 20 slabs to each A frame (evenly distributed each side, with no more than two 20mm slabs discrepancy between the two sides of the A frame). The slabs should be stored face-to-face or back-to-back.

***Note: Stone is a heavy material that can cause serious injury or death if not stored, secured or handled properly. It is highly recommended that all slabs be secured during storage to maintain a safe working environment.***

## VISUAL SLAB INSPECTION & IDENTIFICATION

Performing a visual inspection for defects and colour irregularities is essential when working with Talostone® Natroccia® and should be a standard practice before cutting. Complete the following slab inspection steps as a guide for carrying out a visual inspection for defects:

- Hairline cracks.
- Quartz pattern irregularity and irregular spots.
- Slab-to-slab colour match.
- Thickness tolerance:
  - 1-2mm for 20mm slab thickness.
- Inconsistent gloss levels.
- Warpage\*: 3200mm length direction  $\leq 3.0\text{mm}$ , 1600mm width direction  $\leq 2.0\text{mm}$ ;
- Surface pits/voids/impurities.

**Note:** Talostone® Natroccia® is a collection of Natural stone and as such, is subject to many irregularities, including those mentioned above. Please refer to our Terms & Conditions (page 43) for further information. Talostone® will not accept any claims for any of the above if the slab is modified in any way whatsoever. The Stonemason is responsible for determining if the slabs are fit for purpose. If they are not, they should be exchanged prior to the slabs being cut or modified in any way (Within 7 days of purchase).

\* Length warp should be checked using a full-length straight edge when the slab is placed horizontally, especially for jobs which require finished edge thicknesses greater than the slabs original thickness, i.e mitred edges, 40mm laminated edges etc.

### Colour Matching

As Talostone® Natroccia® products are natural stone, each slab is unique with individual details and patterns – a characteristic inherent of the product. To try to ensure a close colour match over several slabs, it is important to secure slabs that are not only from the same batch but are also (wherever possible) sequential slabs within that batch.

## **Quartz Pattern Irregularity**

As Talostone® Natroccia® products are natural stone, they have random distribution throughout the slab. The nature of “random distribution” is such that sometimes particles will congregate in one area or will be segregated in another. The stonemason must determine if the slab is suitable. If the slab is found to be unsuitable, it should be exchanged prior to cutting.

## **Batch Numbering**

All slabs for a job should have the same batch number, this will ensure the best possible colour match. However, a visual inspection of the slabs is recommended prior to cutting to confirm consistency in colour shading. Each slab is unique and must be checked for shade and quartz distribution. When doing a trial colour match, the final visual inspection must be done under similar lighting conditions to those found at that particular job site. We strongly recommend that you do not have slabs from different batch numbers or non-sequential slab numbers within the same area and definitely not butting up against each other.

**Note:** All batch numbers should be recorded for future reference.

*\* Batch and slab numbers can be found on the side of each slab.*

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)

Talostone® has an OSHA Policy in place to ensure the safety of all persons on our premises. All visitors must observe any direction given by our staff and also follow any warning signs that are posted throughout the warehouse.



### Truck Driver Requirements

- Drivers should stay with their vehicles and ensure the slabs being loaded are suitable.
- Drivers are not to wander through the warehouse unless accompanied by an authorised Talostone® staff member.
- Contract drivers need to be aware of which orders they are collecting and advise our warehouse of the customer name and Delivery Docket number. This is especially important when there are several orders to be picked up by the contract driver. Talostone® will not accept liability for any additional fees charged by contract drivers due to any incorrect or missing orders being picked up and should the driver need to return any slabs as a result, Talostone® may charge appropriate re-stocking fees incurred to the customer.

# PERSONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

## RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA

### Guide Introduction

Natural stone, like the other earth materials, contain crystalline silica which is dangerous when inhaled. Talostone® Natroccia® slabs, as well as fabricated and installed products, do not present a health risk or hazard when transported, shipped or used by the end consumer. However, during the fabrication and processing, it generates respirable crystalline silica dust. This requires fabrication and processing to be performed under strict safety conditions.

It is important to note that the guidelines provided in this guide are not intended to replace your local laws and regulations, which should be complied with, as further detailed below.

All licensed and qualified stonemasons are required to provide their workers with the relevant information related to workplace health and safety and we strongly encourage them to also provide this information to their customers, particularly in areas where crystalline silica dust may be present.

### The objective of this Guide is,

- To provide information about the risks and health hazards caused by working in an environment with respirable crystalline silica dust; and
- To provide information to assist in reducing workers' exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust, including guidance on the safe use of products containing crystalline silica in the workplace and the necessary personal protection required.

### What is crystalline silica dust and what health risks can be caused by crystalline silica dust?

Crystalline silica dust is generated in workplace mechanical processes such as crushing, cutting, drilling, grinding, sawing or polishing of natural stone or man-made products that contain crystalline silica. Some dust particles can be so small that they are not visible; these are commonly referred to as respirable particles.

Respirable crystalline silica dust particles are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and can cause irreversible lung damage.

As a result, unprotected and uncontrolled occupational exposure and inhalation of respirable crystalline silica particles without the safety measures required by law is

dangerous to health and may cause severe illnesses such as Silicosis, which is characterised by fibrosis of the lungs.

Silicosis is a chronic and non reversible disease which may cause severe physical disabilities and may be fatal. The pathological process of Silicosis may cause severe complications such as: lung cancer, tuberculosis and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. Pre-existing physical disorders may aggravate the adverse effects of exposure to Silica dust. Silicosis is an occupational disease that may affect workers in the stone fabrication industry if they process marble, granite, quartz surfaces and other natural stones or products containing natural stone without safety measures, which has been recognised for over a century. This disease can affect the production/ fabrication workers themselves, and any other employee/worker who is present at the fabrication facility (where there is silica dust) such as managers and administrative staff.

### **What diseases can crystalline silica dust cause?**

If a worker is exposed to and breathes in crystalline silica dust they could develop:

- Chronic bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Acute silicosis
  - Can develop after a short exposure high levels of crystalline silica dust, within a few weeks or years, and causes severe inflammation and an outpouring of protein into the lung.
- Accelerated silicosis
  - Can develop after exposures of 3 to 10 years of moderate to high levels of crystalline silica dust and causes inflammation, protein in the lungs and scarring of the lungs (fibrotic nodules).
- Chronic silicosis
  - Can develop after long term exposure to lower levels of crystalline silica dust and causes fibrotic nodules and shortness of breath.
  - Can include progressive massive fibrosis where the fibrotic nodules in the lung aggregate.
- Lung cancer
- Kidney damage
- Scleroderma
  - A disease of the connective tissue of the body resulting in the formation of scar tissue in the skin, joints and other organs of the body.



*The above section information was sourced from [www.safeworkaustralis.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralis.gov.au)*

## **General Prevention Principles**

Silicosis and other diseases associated with crystalline silica dust as stated above can be reduced and controlled by following the required safety precautions, including those described below. Measures include improved work practices such as working with wet tools, engineering controls, ventilation and filter systems, respiratory protective equipment and training programmes, as further detailed below and in your local laws and regulations regarding working in environments containing harmful dust. Please note that the recommendations with respect to the work area relate mainly to the production/fabrication facilities, but are also applicable to adjacent offices.

In order to control and reduce the health risks associated with crystalline silica, a crystalline silica control program needs to be implemented in the workplace in accordance with all the applicable laws, regulations, orders and directives. This program should be reviewed on a regular basis. Furthermore, permissible exposure limits to respirable crystalline silica dust should be met. Exposure limits for quartz, silica sand and cristobalite must meet SafeWork Australia standard, please refer to [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au) for detailed information.

It is important to note that the exposure and personal protection precautions are only necessary for the fabrication of Talostone® Natroccia® products (cutting, sawing, polishing etc.), due to the dust that may be generated in the process containing crystalline silica, and not for the slab as a product.

The employer is responsible for the primary duty of care for their employees, providing their workers with all the current information, tools and safety measures required in order to protect them from the risk of exposure to crystalline silica dust. The workers are responsible for fully implementing safety instructions. Access to the work area should be restricted to authorised employees only. By a joint effort of employers and their employees, the workplace can become a safe environment for everyone.

**DRY FABRICATING PROCESSES ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE ON ANY TALOSTONE® PRODUCTS, WATER-FED TOOLS MUST BE USED AT ALL TIMES.**

The best protection is to avoid exposure to dry crystalline silica. Therefore, implement fabrication techniques in which all cutting, grinding and shaping is performed wet.

- Work with wet tools and cutting machines as they help to prevent the release of crystalline silica dust. This applies to all tools.
- Design and use a good and efficient water system.
- Clean and maintain all drainage systems when using water sprays and hoses.

- Wet hosing rather than compressed air should be used for cleaning and under no circumstances should dust be swept up with a broom.

## **Ventilation and Filtration Systems**

Engineering control is critical as well. This refers to the use of ventilation and filtration systems specifically designed to collect respirable particles of dust. Implement filter systems that include the following elements:

- Professional extraction hoods.
- Enclosure for collecting and containing pollutants.
- Ducts for pollutant removal.
- Filters positioned between the hood and the fan.
- Fans for moving air flow and releasing clean air outside the workplace.

## **Ventilation**

Please visit or speak to your local authority to get professional help and detailed requirements for this. Our further recommendations regarding proper ventilation include, but are not limited to;

- Ensuring that the workplace (including the fabrication facilities as well as adjacent offices) have complete and effective ventilation.
- Working with qualified ventilation expert or engineer prior to implementing any ventilation systems to ensure they meet all requirements.
- Operating local exhaust ventilation at the dust source in order to capture the dust at the highest level.
- Connecting local exhaust ventilation to a dust extraction unit such as a bag filter/cyclone.
- Maintaining local exhaust ventilation in good working order plus replacing/maintaining filters and other parts in accordance with supplier's instructions.
- Keeping the dust source as isolated as possible to prevent dust dispersal.
- Keeping air ducts as short as possible, minimising the risk of exposure to employees.
- Positioning the work area as far away as possible from doors, windows and passages in order to prevent wind and drafts spreading the dust and hindering local exhaust ventilation.

## **Dust Monitoring & Supervision**

Dust monitoring and supervision include the following:

- Researching your local regulations and laws as to the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) and Threshold Limit Value (TLV) for the legally permitted level of exposure to the different types of respirable silica dust, including crystalline silica.
- Performing a risk assessment to determine whether existing dust controls are sufficient.
- Working with designated experts to create appropriate dust monitoring systems and consulting with industrial hygiene professionals regarding a dust sampling strategy.
- Keeping complete records for dust monitoring and implementing a quality system accordingly.
- Performing regular checks to ensure that the dust intake, filtration and expulsion systems are functioning correctly.
- Ensuring that settled dust and polluted air cannot be dispersed or spread to clean areas or outside the work area.
- Creating and enforcing rules that all employees wear protective respiratory equipment in areas with hazardous dust.
- It is extremely important that all dust extraction emissions comply with local environmental rules.
- Signs of “Hazardous Dust” should be displayed in all areas with hazardous dust.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Workers must wear protective equipment and in cases where there is potential exposure to airborne crystalline silica. Where exposure is risk of exposure is high, industrial respirators need be used and comprehensive training provided.

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is mandatory in workplaces where risks exist. This should be clearly marked with appropriate signage.
- PPE should comply with your local legal requirements, be designed and manufactured according to safety and health standards and be used, maintained and replaced in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

- Respiratory protection against crystalline silica dust should be P3 classification.
- Employees should receive training on the proper use and maintenance of their PPE, and should check efficacy of all respiratory protection equipment prior to use.
- Ensure that all employees wear appropriate PPE and keep records of all PPE in use, pursuant to applicable law.
- Provide employees who work with crystalline silica dust with overalls, protective eye wear and face respirators that prevent dust absorption.



## Hygiene

Personnel hygiene is another important factor in health protection, and includes the following:

- Providing bathroom facilities in the plant with toilets, showers, wash basins and individual lockers for storing changes of clothing.
- Making two checkrooms available to all plant employees: one in which they change from home clothes into clean work clothes and store their home clothes during working hours; and another in which they change out of work clothes at the end of a working day before showering and changing back into home clothes.
- Employees should wear only designated work apparel at the worksite.
- Employees should leave their work clothes and shoes in the workplace and never remove them from the plant.
- Launder all employees' work clothes and provide them with clean clothes on a daily basis.
- Providing explanations on the importance of separating work clothes from home clothes.
- Employees should wash their hands and faces plus change clothes before eating.

- Permitting eating, drinking and smoking only in designated areas that are not exposed to hazardous dust.

## **Cleaning**

- Clean the workplace, floors and all exposed surfaces on a daily basis.
- Clean all equipment and systems on a regular basis.
- Employ both wet and approved vacuum cleaning methods,
- Do not sweep using a dry broom, brush or compressed air.
- Do not clean work clothes, machines or floors with compressed air.

## **Administration, Regulation & Maintenance**

- Maintain all equipment in good working order.
- Do not make changes to any working systems without supplier approval.
- Keep instructions and diagrams of installed systems in a safe place for reference.
- Ensure that regular checks are performed on inlet airflows, duct air speed and filter pressure index on ventilation systems.
- Check all systems on a regular basis and in accordance with supplier instructions.
- Keep inspection reports as per local law compliance.

**NOTE:** All surfaces need to be fabricated within the plant only and not at the end user's location in order to protect installers as well as other persons on site or in the surrounding area.

## **Training Employees on Safety & Hygiene Issues**

Employees who are involved in and committed to the safety program are most likely to comply with them. Employee training needs to include the following:

- Creating and implementing clear guidelines for safe working procedures and good practices in your workplace.
- Training all new employees about health, safety and hygiene procedures.

- Continuously delivering mandatory training sessions to existing employees on an ongoing basis in order to update and review their knowledge of your health and safety procedures.
- Regularly reviewing and updating your safety and hygiene procedures as per local, state and national laws as well as any other regulation requirements.
- Providing employees with current data on health effects associated with respirable crystalline silica dust.
- Providing training for the use of respiratory protective equipment as well as other PPE and keeping comprehensive records of all training provided to employees plus recording employees' attendance at training sessions.
- Assessing employees' knowledge after each training session in order to verify that they understand your safety procedures.
- Providing clear data about the risks associated with fabrication tasks.

## **Health Surveillance**

Health surveillance needs to be implemented based on your local rules and regulations, which may include the following:

- Implementing a health surveillance programme for employees who are exposed to respirable crystalline silica, including medical testing and other tests as required by local regulations.
- Keeping records following the termination of each employee's employment as per local regulation requirements.
- Keeping records of protocols and all tasks that expose workers to respirable crystalline silica.

## **Additional Information & Disclaimers**

The information contained in this Guide is, to the best of our knowledge, is current and accurate. However, this is only a summary. It is not possible in this short document to comprehensively cover all the topics mentioned, nor is it possible to cover in detail all areas of concern regarding crystalline silica dust in the workplace.

Any recommendations or advice provided here are general and do not take into account the specific conditions that exist at each fabrication site. Furthermore, none of the content in this guide may be construed as encouragement for using any product or tool in violation

of any laws, safety practice or instructions by the supplier.

We strongly recommend that you consult with occupational health professionals and other experts concerning all matters regarding the control of respirable crystalline silica in each specific workplace.

We also note that the laws and regulations regarding crystalline silica dust differ from state to state, and we vehemently insist that you obey your local regulations and legislation regarding working in environments containing harmful crystalline silica dust. In any case where these guidelines contradict your local regulations, your local regulations shall take precedence.

None of the information contained in this guide creates a contractual relationship between Talostone® and any fabricator.

Information on occupational safety and health administration appears, among other sources on the following websites;

**Safework Australia** (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/>)


**Occupational Health & Safety Australia** (<http://www.ohs.net.au/>)


## Health & Safety Warning Sticker on slabs

At Talostone® we care about the health and safety of fabricators who use our products. As such, all our slabs contain important information on work safety and the potential risks of Crystalline Silica to ensure all fabricators are made aware and can take necessary precautions when working with our products.

 **TALOSTONE®** - *Your Natural Choice®*

 **MINQzero**

 **NATROCCIA**

 **ARTSENSE**

**HAZARD STATEMENTS**



**Talostone® - Natural Stone and Mineral Surfaces**

Components: Quartz (Crystalline Silica)

CAS No.: 14808-60-7  
Silicon dioxide

CAS No.: 26123-45-5  
1,3-Isobenzofurandione, polymer with 2,5-furandione and 2,2-oxybisethanol

Regulated ingredients

**HAZARD STATEMENTS:**

**May form combustible dust concentrations in air. May cause cancer. Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure. (Lungs) - Refer to Safety Data Sheet for additional information on proper handling.**

**Precautionary statements:**

Any product containing natural materials such as crystal, sand or stone may contain quartz (Crystalline Silica), at least in way of trace elements. However, the product is not hazardous as shipped or once it has been installed.

Obtain special instructions before use. Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood. Do not inhale any dust / fume / gas / mist / vapour / spray. Wash skin thoroughly after handling. Do not eat, drink or smoke when fabricating or installing this product. Use personal protective equipment as required. If exposed or concerned, get medical advice / attention. If large amounts of dust is inhaled, retreat to fresh air. Changing the physical state of this product by dry cutting, grinding, polishing, routing, drilling, sanding, breaking etc, will create airborne dust particles which may contain Crystalline Silica. This can lead to various and serious health problems such as Lung Cancer, Silicosis, Tuberculosis, irritation of the skin and/or eyes as well as cornea abrasion or other health risks. This material must be fabricated using only wet tools with the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment as per Australian standards, AS/NZS 2210, AS/NZS 1715 & 1716, AS/NZS 2161, AS/NZS 1337, AS/NZS 1269, AS/NZS 1801:1997, and any other applicable standards depending on your situation.

**Supplemental information:**

The product as such is not hazardous. The potential hazards of this product are associated mainly with its processing. Operations such as drilling, sawing, routing and sanding can generate dust which may contain of Crystalline Silica or trace elements thereof. Adequate ventilation is compulsory to minimise exposure to airborne dust particles below acceptable limits as per Safe Work Australia and local State safe work requirements. Dust generated during handling of Quartz Surfacing Products can contain particles of Crystalline Silica (quartz). Overexposure to airborne dust containing Crystalline Silica can cause illnesses such as Silicosis (scarring of the lung tissue) or even cancer. Effects can be permanent and fatal. If small particles of dust containing Crystalline Silica are generated during further processing, handling or other means, it may form combustible dust concentrations in air.

Every fabricator/stonemason has a legal responsibility to provide a safe work environment. All materials need to be fabricated with consideration to the material composition and behaviour under various fabrication processes. This notice is to highlight hazards associated with the fabricating of stone slabs which contain quartz or trace elements thereof. It does not cover other items associated with the fabrication and installation of the material such as joint fillers, glues, cleaner, and chemicals - Please seek specified advice for these. It also does not cover machinery or equipment.

**Refer to Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for further information.**  
**Please contact Talostone®, +61 (0)2 8783 0600, to obtain the latest information.**



Above text reads;

## **Talostone® - Natural Stone and Mineral Surfaces**

### **Components: Quartz (Silica Crystalline)**

CAS No.: 14808-60-7

Silicon dioxide

CAS No.: 26123-45-5

1,3-Isobenzofurandione, polymer with 2,5-furandione and 2,2-oxybisethanol

Regulated ingredients

#### **HAZARD STATEMENTS:**

**May form combustible dust concentrations in air. May cause cancer. Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure. (Lungs) (Refer to Safety Data Sheet for additional information on proper handling)**

#### **Precautionary statements:**

Any product containing natural materials such as crystal, sand or stone may contain quartz (crystalline silica), at least in way of trace elements. However, the product is not hazardous as shipped or once it has been installed. Obtain special instructions before use. Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood. Do not inhale any dust / fume / gas / mist / vapour / spray. Wash skin thoroughly after handling.

Do not eat, drink or smoke when fabricating or installing this product. Use personal protective equipment as required. If exposed or concerned, get medical advice / attention. If large amounts of dust is inhaled, retreat to fresh air. Changing the physical state of this product by dry cutting, grinding, polishing, routing, drilling, sanding, breaking etc, will create airborne dust particles which may contain Crystalline Silica. This can lead to various and serious health problems such as Lung Cancer, Silicosis, Tuberculosis, irritation of the skin and/or eyes as well as cornea abrasions or other health risks. This material must be fabricated using only wet tools with the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment as per Australian standards, AS/NZS 2210, AS/NZS 1715 & 1716, AS/NZS 2161, AS/NZS 1337, AS/NZS 1269, AS/NZS 1801:1997, and any other applicable standards depending on your situation.

#### **Supplemental information:**

The product as such is not hazardous. The potential hazards of this product are associated mainly with its processing. Operations such as drilling, sawing, routing and sanding can generate dust which may contain Crystalline Silica or trace elements thereof. Adequate ventilation is compulsory to minimise exposure to airborne dust particles below acceptable limits as per Safe Work Australia and local state safe work requirements. Dust generated during handling of Quartz Surfacing Products can contain particles of crystalline silica (quartz). Overexposure to airborne dust containing Crystalline Silica can cause silicosis (scarring of the lung tissue) or even cancer. Effects can be permanent and fatal. If small particles of dust containing Crystalline Silica are generated during further processing, handling or by other means, it may form combustible dust concentrations in air.

Every fabricator/stonemason has a legal responsibility to provide a safe work environment. All materials need to be fabricated with consideration to the material composition and behaviour under various fabrication processes. This notice is to highlight hazards associated with the fabricating of stone slabs which contain quartz or trace elements thereof. It does not cover other items that are associated with the fabrication and installation of the material such as joint fillers, glues, cleaner, and chemicals - Please seek specific advice for these. It also does not cover machinery or equipment.

**Refer to Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for further information.**

**Please contact Talostone®, +61 (0)2 8783 0600, immediately to have the latest information.**

# FABRICATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Tools and Safety Equipment

It is critically important that all licensed stonemasons wishing to fabricate Talostone® Natroccia® products have the proper tools and safety equipment to produce a quality finished product safely and efficiently. Below is a list of tools and safety equipment that are either essential or recommended in order to meet this objective.

### Basic Tools

- Bridge saw
- Electric/pneumatic polisher (variable speed preferred)
- Diamond grinding wheel
- Diamond polishing pads (Specific to Natural stone)
- Grinding stone
- Core bits
- Diamond contour blade
- Wet profiling machine (edge router)
- Stone carts/dollies
- A-Frame/storage racks
- Fabrication stands
- Air compressor
- Seaming clamps
- Water source

### Advanced Tools

- Water jet
- CNC

### Basic Safety Equipment

- First-Aid kit
- Ear plugs
- Safety glasses and shoes
- Work gloves & Aprons
- Premium quality respiratory masks

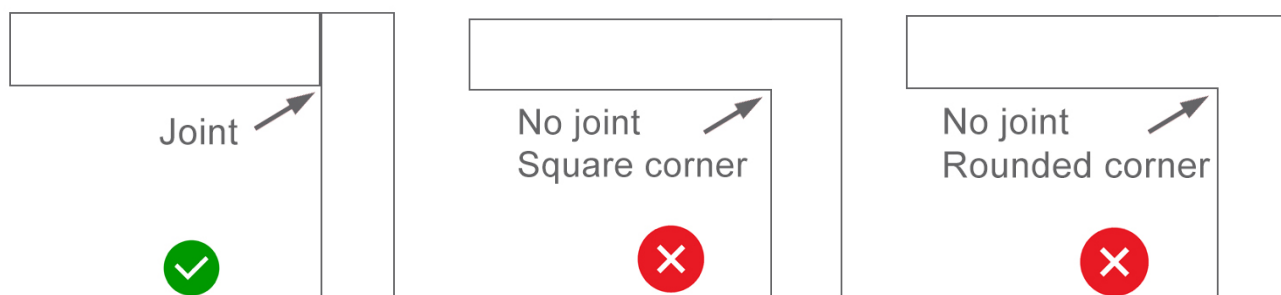
## Basic Fabrication Guidelines

The following guidelines should be followed to ensure a quality finished product:

- ANY DRY FABRICATING PROCESS IS FORBIDDEN!
- To avoid unsafe levels of Crystalline Silica dust and/or overheating the slab, only water-cooled tools should be used for cutting, drilling, and polishing Talostone® Natroccia® slabs.
- Do not cut square corners (cross cut) as this will create stress points in the slab which may result in cracking.
- When cutting an inside corner, always use a core bit to avoid damaging the corner area with the cutting disc. Damage to the radius area will create a stress point.
- Any internal angled corner must have a minimum radius of 5mm. Cut with the saw up to the joint of the drilled hole, leaving the drilled hole intact.
- Avoid dry grinding/polishing corners to avoid unsafe levels of Crystalline Silica dust being generated and/or overheating the area which may result in cracks occurring.

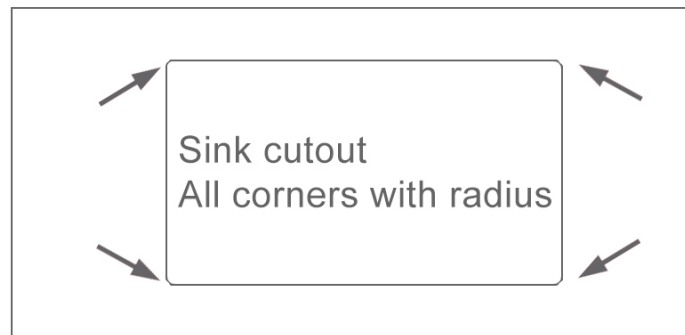
### Internal Corners

In the case of an angular shaped kitchen (L- or U-shaped), the surfaces of the countertop should be fabricated from a single slab (or if necessary, multiple slabs from the same batch) with joins to internal corners between slab pieces. Create a join for every change in direction of the surface.

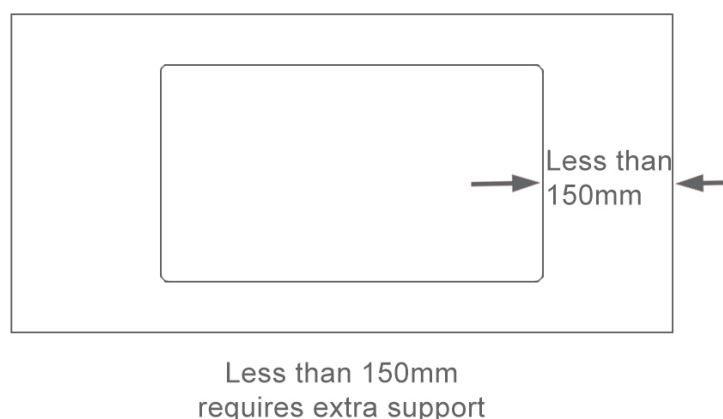


## CUT-OUTS

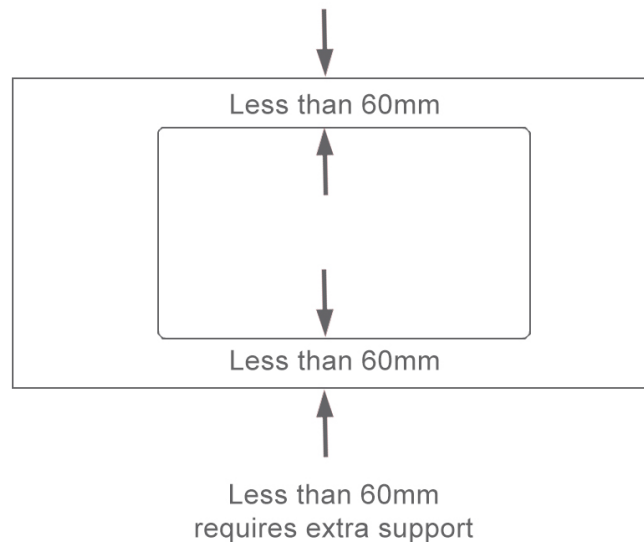
It is commonly necessary to install accessories, such as sinks or cooktops, on bench tops. For all cut-outs, please fabricate a minimum radius of 15 mm to all corners of the cut-out. The larger the radius, the stronger the corner. Cross cutting should be avoided. When preparing a cut-out, always use a core bit. Avoid damaging the drilled area with a cutting disk.



If the distance between the cut-out and a joint is less than 150mm, the area needs to be supported. This can be achieved by ensuring that all joints are placed at the junction of the base cabinets or fitting a solid support under the joint.



The distance between a cut-out and an edge or join must be no less than 60mm. The greater the distance, the stronger the area. For cut-outs which result in less than 60mm rails either to the front or back, important consideration should be given to making these rails from separate pieces to avoid issues with cracking. Please advise the cabinet manufacturer and/or customer that separate rails should be used and the reasoning behind it.



## PIT BURNERS

Talostone® Natroccia® is ideal for pit burners. Please ensure to follow instructions and specifications set forth by the manufacturer.



## SPLASH BACKS CLEARANCE

For gas cook tops, Talostone® require a minimum clearance of 200mm between the burner and Talostone splash back to avoid burns or other damage to the stone.

## SINKS

### Drop-in / Inset Sink

Fabricate the cutout slightly bigger than the accessory sink wall to leave a space between the sink wall and the cut-out. Please leave the cut-out edges unpolished.



### Under-mounted sink

Make sure the cut-out is slightly smaller than the accessory to ensure the join between the accessory and the surface is not visible. Round or bevel the edge of the cutout. The larger the edge profile the greater the impact resistance of the edge, Talostone® recommends a minimum radius of 4mm.



## NOTE

- All under-mount sink cut-outs must have the inside edges polished.
- All under-mount sinks should be sealed to the countertop using 100% silicone.

## Flush-mounted Sink

Ensure that both the cut-out and the milled down edge are slightly larger than the sink to allow for expansion. Follow measurements as per sink installation instructions but, Talostone® recommend that the gap between the top edge of the stone and the top edge of the sink be no less than 1.5mm to prevent damage to the stone from sink movement or expansion. Flush-mounted sinks should be sealed to the stone using 100% silicone.

**Note:** please follow any instructions and recommendations provided by the sink manufacturer.

## Sink drainage grooves

Talostone® Natroccia® products are perfect for drainage grooves as the patterns and veins are consistent throughout the thickness of the slab. After the drainage grooves are done, the detailed veins will still be in tact and visible, creating a great detail to your bench top.



**Note:** The surface of the drainage grooves may not match the exact finish on the rest of the top due to the difference between Stonemason tools and the original Talostone® polishing systems.

Drainage grooves that are too deep, will seriously affect the strength of the bench top around that area. For 20mm thick slabs, we recommend the maximum depth of the drainage grooves be 4mm.

Drainage grooves that exceed 4mm in depth may require additional support to be placed underneath the stone in that area to eliminate any risks of immediate or future damage.

Drainage grooves could pose cleaning issues for the home owner. Drainage grooves may need to be cleaned with a soft bristle brush.

The quality and performance of the sink drainer is the responsibility of the stonemason.

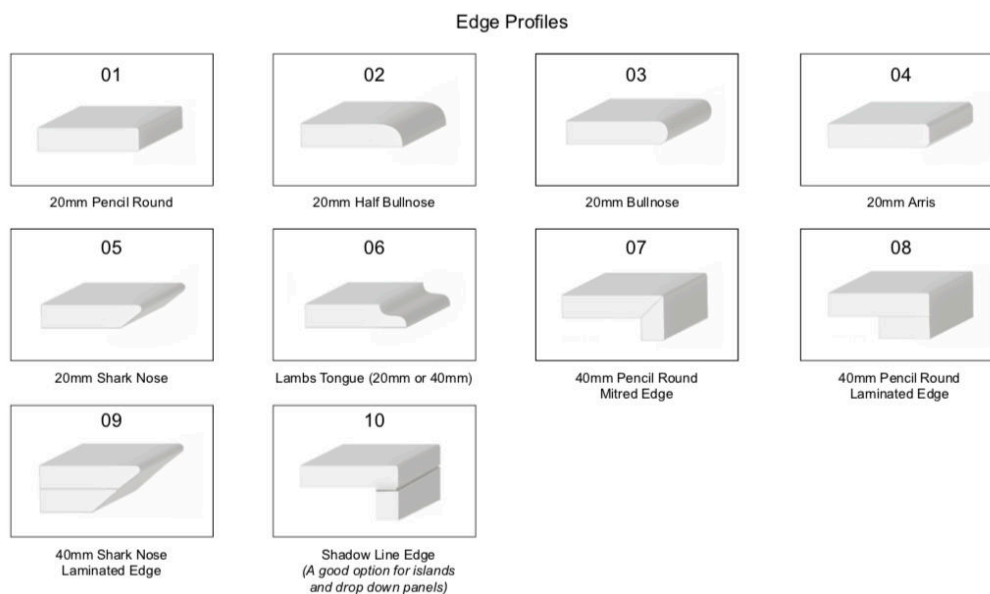


## JOINS

- If a straight seam is not used, any internal angled corner in the seam must have a 9mm radius.
- All seams should be made level by adjusting the material before adhesives set.
- Do not surface polish seams to make them even/level.
- Use a high quality seam setter tool to ensure seams are as narrow and inconspicuous as possible. Seams should not be more than 2.0mm wide but wide enough to absorb movement.

## EDGES

- All exposed edges should be fabricated to the same finish as the surface.
- Do not create square edges. The top and bottom of edges must be rounded or beveled.
- All edges should have a minimum radius of 2mm for any profile.



Available edge profiles depend on your stonemasons.  
For more edge profiles, please speak to your designer / kitchen company / stonemason.

### Note:

*Talostone® do not recommend 45° mitred edges for any drop-down panels as this will require polishing on the job site. This may result in un-safe levels of crystalline silica dust and may potentially cause health risk to installers or other people. However, 45° mitred edges are recommended for normal edges as these are fabricated and secured in factory workshops with wet polishers.*

Chiseled or hammered edges are not approved edge details.

## **Polishing Edge Profiles**

Polishing any Talostone® Natroccia® edge profile should be done in a progressive manner using only natural stone diamond polishing pads. This should only be done in the stone masons workshop in compliance with SafeWork Australia and OHS Australia standards. Talostone® recommends the use of premium quality pads in conjunction with plenty of water for best polishing results. The quality of the pads being used will affect the time required to complete polishing and the quality of the finish. Polishing Talostone® Natroccia® should be done by starting with a surface that is smooth, clean, and free from any residual adhesive.

## **Polishing Tips**

The types of tools, diamond pads, and fabrication techniques used will affect actual polishing results. When polishing the edge profile, use water-cooled tools. Dry-polishing of the edge profile is PROHIBITED and may cause unacceptable levels of crystalline silica dust as well as overheating. Excessive heat undermines the physical structure of the stone, and although not visible to the naked eye, micro-fissures are formed, leading to increased risks chipping, dis-coloration and an uneven polish finish.

## **Laminated edges**

Lamination is the process of gluing a strip of stone along the bottom edge of another piece of stone in order to create the look of a thicker slab. This process is more complex and time consuming than fabricating single thickness edges and involves more labour from a stone mason, however, it produces a richer aesthetic effect.

Cut lamination strips from the same slab as the bench top, and wherever possible, from the same saw cut to ensure a colour match. If there is not enough to cut the strips from the same slab, stonemasons need to make sure the strips from different slabs are the same colour and has a similar quartz grain distribution by cutting trial laminated edges.

Even for same batch slabs, the inside quartz distribution may vary due to the nature of the stone itself. If the expected outcomes cannot be achieved, stonemasons need to advise their customers and change the laminated edge profiles to mitred edge profiles or if necessary, a 20mm edge profile. Talostone® do not take any responsibility for the colour difference of 40mm laminated edge profiles. Do not join laminations strips, each lamination strip should be the same length as the edge to which it will be glued.

## Mitred Edges

- We do not recommend mitred edges for any drop-down panels which need to be polished on a job site as this will cause an unsafe level of crystalline silica dust at the job site. We only recommend mitred edges that can be done at stone mason's factory with no additional polishing required on site. We strongly recommend mitred edges with a shadow line for any drop-down panels (eg. waterfalls/leg returns) to eliminate the need to carry out further polishing on site.
- Mitred edges should be done at a 45° angle to ensure maximum strength. The joint should be clean, flush, and parallel.
- Mitred edges have the greatest weakness and are the most prone to chipping. (Our recommended minimum edge profile is a 3mm bevel. Our preferred minimum edge profile is a 4mm Pencil Round edge.)
- Chipping is most prevalent where the application of the adhesive is not evenly distributed throughout the joint.
- Do not cut edges at less than 45° as this makes the edge prone to physical damage such as chipping.
- Incorrect angles restrict the type of edge that can be produced, the larger the edge profile, the more visible the joint.
- Ensure that the adhesive is thoroughly and evenly distributed throughout the joint for maximum strength.

**Note:** Chipping incurred in this situation is not covered by our Terms & Conditions.

## Recommended procedure for Leathered Finish edges

The natural, unique look of a Leathered finish has a low level of gloss and unique textures, making it beautiful to both see and touch. Due to the innovative technology used to create lightly textured surfaces, we recommend the following guidelines to ensure the highest quality workmanship and an optimal result when polishing this type of edge finish.

We highly recommend that a mitred edge be used for this material, as it will achieve the best textured appearance. However if any other edge is demanded, it is the responsibility of the fabricator to discuss with the client any texture variations in relation to the surface finish.

## SEALING

As Talostone® Natroccia® are Natural Stone, each piece will need to be sealed after fabrication has been completed (cut and polished). Talostone® recommends sealing all individual pieces in the factory twice after fabrication and once more after they have been installed on site.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Packing for Transport

- Stone slabs and fabricated sections are generally heavy and fragile. Consideration must be given to portability and site access when planning and packing for transport.
- Brace all cutouts to avoid flexing of the seams and corners.
- Transport Talostone® Natroccia® with sections touching face-to-face or back-to-back. Do not allow any parts to slide around during transportation. Make sure the face is always protected by Talostone® protective films or similar and not touching any abrasive surface such as metal, the back of another slab, etc.

### Racking for Transport

- As some Natural stones can be very delicate and fragile, good racking is essential for getting the product to the site without incidents or damage.
- The slabs should be securely fastened to the rack by straps. Care should be taken to protect the straps from being damaged or cut by the edge of the slabs.
- All racking should have a protective layer between the rack and Talostone® Natroccia® material. This will help to prevent scratching or other surface damage during storage or transit.

## INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

### Non-Critical Light - In the Home / on Site

Slabs are to be viewed from a normal viewing position. A normal viewing position is looking at the bench tops from a distance of 600mm with the surface of the slabs illuminated by non-critical light.

Non-critical light is light that strikes the surface of the slabs in a diffused way and is not glancing or parallel to that surface. Slight variations in the colour of the slabs do not constitute a defect.

This is site specific, so it could be an issue in a highly lit environment, but not visible in another. Check reflectivity at the factory and on site before fixing tops to cabinetry.

### Preparing Base Units/Cabinets

Ensure that cabinets are complete and satisfactorily installed. Verify that all cabinets are level. The tops of the cabinets must be flat. The cabinets should be affixed to each other and then secured to the back wall or floor. In the case of a dishwasher, make sure that the surrounds of the opening in the counter have sufficient support. The front edge of any countertop over a dishwasher should always be supported with material matching the installed cabinets to better match the kitchen.

**NOTE:** If cabinets do not meet the minimum standards, the installer must notify the homeowner or project manager present at the job site prior to installation.

- Fabricated Talostone® Natroccia® surfaces are installed on top of cabinets and are not attached to the wall.
- Before installing Talostone® Natroccia® bench tops, it is extremely important to make sure that cabinets are fully completed, stable, levelled, secured and suitable for bearing the weight of the Talostone® Natroccia® bench tops.
- Talostone® Natroccia® surfaces must be supported on a strong perimeter frame or on a full deck support.
- It is essential that the bench top is sufficiently supported, particularly in areas such as joins, cut-outs and open spaces for appliances such as dishwashers, ovens, washing machines, etc.
- For cut-outs longer than 600mm, ensure there is firm side-to-side support underneath.

## **Cabinet Support**

It is extremely important to note that plinths provide a strong and stable base for the cabinets and are considered the best practice method for securing cabinetry. Regardless of the method used to secure the cabinetry, It is essential that they are properly levelled and secured to the floor and wall.

Cabinets should be placed and fixed securely to ensure that there is no movement under any additional load, such as Talostone®. Natroccia® bench tops. Also ensure that you have a level surface to place the tops on.

## **Under-bench Appliances**

Under-bench appliances such as ovens, dishwashers and microwaves generate heat in a very confined area. For areas above appliances which generate heat, it is necessary to make sure that the heat is not going to damage Talostone® Natroccia® bench tops by attaching a protective board across the opening between the cabinet on both sides of under-counter appliances that generate heat. We recommend that a solid top is installed above these appliances made from the same material as the cabinet carcasses. This will provide both support and insulation for the bench top.

## **BENCH TOPS**

### **Preparation for Installation**

- Place all the fabricated pieces in their final position on the cabinets without adhesive. Check that all the pieces are the correct size, shape and direction in relation to the cabinets and the walls.
- Check that all exposed edges and corners have been polished and rounded as required.
- Check that the surface is straight and level with a spirit level and long ruler.
- Leave a space of 1mm per linear metre between straight stretches of the surface and each wall for expansion and contraction, but no less than 3mm overall in any event.
- Perform a final visual inspection to ensure that the surface is to your satisfaction.

## **Adhesive Application**

- To fix the tops to the carcasses, apply enough flexible silicone adhesive to secure the tops. We do not recommend using any adhesives other than flexible silicone.
- Do not use excessive amounts of glue as even silicone, when used in abundance, is extremely strong and will restrict the slabs natural expansion and contraction.
- Use the minimum amount required to do the job.
- Large pieces will not move easily due to their weight. As such, minimal adhesive is required. Smaller pieces will need extra adhesive so they are not dislodged.
- Areas such as island bars and breakfast bars with overhangs should be more securely fixed.

## **Joins**

- Part the fabricated pieces of surface slightly at the join.
- Place a layer of paper on the cabinet underneath the join in order to prevent the adhesive from sticking the surface to the cabinet.
- Prepare a suitable colour-matched polyester resin adhesive.
- If necessary, mix the adhesive with pigments using a stainless steel or plastic spatula until achieving the required shade.
- Use a plastic spatula for mixing light colours. Ensure that the join is clean of debris.
- Spread a generous amount of the adhesive on both sides of the joint.
- Ensure that the groove in the middle of the join is filled with adhesive.
- Close, secure and straighten the join with clamps or a professional joining clamp to create a smooth, flush joint.
- After the adhesive is completely dry, remove the clamps.
- Remove any excess adhesive with a scraper.
- Perform final cleaning with alcohol on a clean white cloth.  
Do not polish joins.

## Between the Talostone® Natroccia® Surface and the Wall

- Clean the space between the surface and the wall.
- Fill the space with a flexible adhesive such as 100% neutral cure silicone.
- The silicone adhesive prevents water from entering the cabinet.
- For visible joints between your Talostone® Natroccia® stone and a different material, use coloured silicone.

## Overhangs

An overhang is a surface that is not directly supported by a construction underneath, i.e, a surface that extends past the edge of the supporting cabinet for use as a bench top.

Extra strength can be provided by laminating the edge of the overhang and attaching another slab of the same thickness underneath. In this case, the bottom slab is attached back to back to the underside of the bench top so that the polished surface is visible underneath the bench top. Alternatively, brackets or solid boards may be used for additional support.

The permitted overhang dimension must be determined by a professional. It is dependent on a number of factors, such as:

- The complete length to width ratio of the surface relative to the length and width ratio of the overhang.
- Whether the overhang is supported on one or more sides by a wall or other supporting fixture.

**The table below provides approximate guidelines for support required for overhangs.**

Supports are dependent on the application. If the overhangs will be subjected to high loads, then supports should be used regardless of the recommendations below.

<b>20mm Thickness (Including 40mm laminated)</b>	<b>Support Requirements</b>
<b>Overhang less than 300mm</b>	No additional support required.
<b>Overhang of 300-500mm</b>	Support brackets at 600mm intervals or solid board.
<b>Overhang greater than 500mm</b>	Support legs, columns or panels.



## STRUCTURAL SUPPORT

Below are some guidelines on installation and support types:

### Bench Tops

- Talostone® Natroccia® must be supported on a strong perimeter frame.
- Front-to-back support within the cabinet should be provided every 600mm.
- Do not undercut corners.
- Allow room for expansion between bench tops and walls as well as joins between separate stone pieces.
- All cabinets must be levelled and supported prior to the installation of the tops. If the cabinets are on adjustable legs, please ensure that all legs are evenly tensioned to prevent any movement.

**Note:** Support is required across the top of a dishwasher space and over an under-counter oven. Support must be provided under all countertop joints.

### Sinks and Basins

For all sink or basin installations, please follow the recommendations of the manufacturer.

- For cutouts, follow the recommendations on **Page 26** of this manual. For under-mount installations, follow the minimum edge profile recommendation of 2mm Pencil Round edge around the cutout to reduce the risk of chipping.
- Twin basin installations (drop-in or under-mount), where the tap hole is in the countertop, require extra care to ensure that there is sufficient material left for strength. Extra support is required to ensure that no cracking occurs.
- All sink cut-outs must be made using drilled radius corners (minimum 15mm) to prevent stress points in the top.
- We highly recommend that all sink installations be fully supported independent of the Talostone® Natroccia® bench top. Please be sure to use a professional sink-setter or support rail system. Plan for front-to-back support strips (40mm–100mm wide) to coincide with cut-outs and periodic support.

**Note:** Under no circumstances can mechanical fasteners (screws, nails, etc.) be affixed directly to Talostone® Natroccia® stone.

## Table Tops

If you are using Talostone® Natroccia® as a freestanding tabletop, care needs to be taken to secure the table top to the base firmly. This is of the utmost importance when the table has only one central leg as support. A silicone adhesive is not enough to adequately secure the Talostone® Natroccia® top to the base. In this situation, we recommend a stronger, more rigid adhesive be used (such as a construction adhesive like polyurethane that is strong yet still flexible) to ensure that the tabletop is properly secured to the base.

## Wall Applications

Talostone® requires that all interior wall surfaces be sound, secure, rigid and conform to all applicable laws and engineering practices. All bedding and grouting should be weather, frost, shock and chemical-resistant. They must also meet local engineering specifications, laws, and regulations.

- Talostone® Natroccia® can be applied over concrete, block and masonry-type surfaces, plasters, cement backer board, plywood, asphalt, and steel with proper preparation and the use of appropriate adhesives and grout.
- Talostone® Natroccia® stone does not constitute a waterproof barrier and should not be considered a replacement for a waterproof membrane. For information on thin, load-bearing waterproof membranes, consult your preferred supplier.
- Talostone® Natroccia® surfaces to be bonded must be free of dust, oil, grease, paint, tar, wax, curing agents, primers, sealers, form release agents, or any other deleterious substances which may act as bond barriers.
- All additives, epoxy adhesives, and grouts should be from the same manufacturer to ensure compatibility.
- Handle, store, mix and apply all setting and/or grouting materials in strict compliance with the manufacturers directions.

## Flooring

If Talostone® MinQ® Zero is being used as flooring, please ensure compliance with all local and federal mandates and procedures for stone flooring. We strongly recommend choosing a product with a P2 slip rating for general areas and a P3 slip rating for wet areas. Please reach out to Talostone® Head Office for Slip Test Report Summaries for each Talostone® MinQ® Zero products as well as NATA Reports and information on treatment options.

## Fireplace Cladding

In most cases, Talostone® Natroccia® can be used as fireplace surrounds with wood, electric or gas heaters without any issue. Please check with the fireplace manufacturer as they would have more detailed information relating specifically to the model being used.

- Leave a 5mm gap between stone and metal frame to minimise pressure cracks.
- Thermal insulation such as fibreglass thermal insulation tape is recommended.
- Talostone® Natroccia® is NOT recommended for inner fireplace panelling.

## Sealing

- Although all Talostone® Natroccia® surfaces should already have been sealed after fabrication, we strongly recommend resealing once or twice more at the completion of installation. Natural stone will need to be re-sealed periodically by the owner to minimise the risk of stains. Talostone® recommend re-sealing at least every 12 months (especially for lighter colours) but ask that you refer to the product manufacturers instructions and recommendations for further information.

## AFTER INSTALLATION

Once installation is complete, ensure that the slab surface is clean and the work area tidy.

If further construction work is to be performed at the job site after the installation of the Talostone® Natroccia® bench top is complete, ensure that the Natroccia® surfaces are properly protected by covering the entire top with corrugated cardboard or another protective material with warning advice on the protective material, such as Talostone® Protective Film (TPF), available from Talostone.

Please make your customer aware that any successive trades must not use the bench top as a workbench, a stepping or a standing platform. Any trades using solvents or adhesives should take care to avoid any stone surfaces and remove any spills created by their solvents or adhesives immediately.

We strongly recommend that your customer confirm, in writing, their satisfaction with the material and workmanship at the completion of the job to cover you against damages caused by others.

Make sure to leave information about Talostone® Natroccia® Terms & Conditions as well as Care & Maintenance details for the customer (available on our website, [www.talostone.com.au](http://www.talostone.com.au)).

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

### Care and Maintenance

#### Everyday Cleaning

*For everyday cleaning, we recommend using a damp cloth and mild detergent\* to maintain your Talostone® Natroccia® bench tops. Rinse thoroughly with clean water before drying with a soft, clean microfibre cloth using round, circular motions.*

*All natural stone is porous and susceptible to stains, especially delicate marbles or lighter colours in general. **We strongly recommend wiping up any spills or residue from your bench top surface with a soft cloth or kitchen paper as soon as possible.***

*If further cleaning is needed, apply a spray of mild detergent and leave for 2-3 minutes before rinsing thoroughly and drying.*

*Talostone® does not recommend using abrasive cleaners or pads on Talostone® Natroccia® surfaces as these could damage the surface finish and/or reduce the surface shine.*

#### Deep Cleaning

*Talostone® recommends thoroughly cleaning your Talostone® Natroccia® surfaces on a semi-regular basis to keep them looking as-new.*

*For a deep clean, we recommend using a soft cloth or non-abrasive sponge and a bar of regular soap. Wet the cloth and rub it on the surface of the soap before applying to the Talostone® Natroccia® surface. Clean your bench top using small, circular motions whilst applying firm pressure before rinsing thoroughly with clean water. Dry using circular movements, with a clean and dry microfibre cloth.*

*Alternatively, you can also use our Talostone® Cream Cleanser\*\* for a deep clean, simply follow above procedures.*

#### Stubborn or Hard Stains

*If a stain is unnoticed and accidentally left for an extended period of time, it may become dry and difficult to clean. We recommend spraying the affected area with warm soapy water and leaving it for 5 minutes. Once the dried residue becomes soft, it can be removed with a soft cloth. If the stain proves to be stubborn, Talostone® Cream Cleanser\*\* and a damp cloth may be used. Please apply the cleaning cream to the cloth rather than directly onto the surface.*

*\*Please reach out to our Head Office for advise on the best detergents for your selected stone.*

*\*\*Talostone® Cream Cleanser can be purchased from our website. [www.talostone.com.au](http://www.talostone.com.au)*

### **Honed and Textured finishes**

*As the surface texture on honed, sand blasted, flamed and leathered finishes are significantly different in relation to shine, glossy substances such as water marks, finger prints and product residue tend to be more visible on these surfaces.*

*Streaking is usually the result of water or cleaning products being left to dry on its own accord which, when dry, will show up as a different finish from the Talostone® Natroccia® bench top when reflected by light.*

*These surfaces traditionally require more daily maintenance than polished finishes as there is more surface area. Marks, stains and other signs of daily living may show more easily on these surfaces. Most marks or stains can be removed using non-abrasive cleaning procedures mentioned above.*

### **Heat Tolerance**

*All Talostone® Natroccia® products are natural stone and therefore have excellent heat tolerances, especially granites and quartzites. However, as with all stone surfaces, any sudden or rapid temperature change can cause thermal shock. Thermal shock may result in discolouration, cracks, chipping or other damage to the stone so we strongly advise against hot pots, pans or plates being placed directly onto the surface.*

### **Scratch Resilience**

*As Talostone® Natroccia® include a variety of products, scratch resistance and durability may vary between the different colours in our collection. One thing that is certain however, is that none of the surfaces are indestructible and any stone can be damaged by hard or sharp objects. We strongly recommend the use of a cutting board to avoid damage to your Talostone® Natroccia surface.*

### **Cleaning Agents to Avoid**

*As Talostone® Natroccia® include a variety of natural products, chemical resistance levels also vary but strong chemicals or solvents may still permanently damage any stone. We do not recommend the use of any strong caustic chemical cleaners. If your Talostone® Natroccia® surface is accidentally exposed to such chemicals, rinse the area immediately with clean water to neutralise the effect.*

### **Sealing**

*Your stonemason should have already sealed your Talostone® Natroccia® surfaces during the fabrication and installation. However, Talostone® recommends re-sealing at least every 12 months (especially for lighter colours). Please contact your stonemason for recommendations regarding sealing product options. Refer to the product manufacturers instructions and recommendations for further information.*

*For more information or further assistance, please contact Talostone® on 02 8783-0600 or at [info@talostone.com.au](mailto:info@talostone.com.au)*

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE

*Thank you for your interest in Natroccia® Natural Stone. We kindly ask that you carefully read through the following Terms & Conditions prior to your purchase and contact us should something not be clear and comprehensible to you for further clarification.*

### **Definitions**

- A. Company/Seller - Talostone® Pty Ltd*
- B. Customer/Client- The individual(s) or entity who places an order with the Company.*
- C. Product/Material/Item/Slab - Any goods supplied by the Company. This may, in some instances, include professional services such as advise and/or recommendations relating to a particular order.*

### **GENERAL**

- D. The customer acknowledge and accept that Talostone® Natroccia® products natural stone and do not carry any warranties.*
- E. The customer agrees that any products purchased from Talostone® will be fabricated in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations. They also ensure that any health and safety regulations as well as fabrication procedure guidelines set forth by SafeWork Australia will be strictly adhered to.*
- F. The customer agrees to ensure fabrication is carried out in compliance the Talostone® Natroccia® Fabrication, Installation, Health & Safety Guide.*
- G. Talostone® strongly recommends visual inspection of any slabs by the customer prior to purchase as returns/refunds may be refused after purchase.*
- H. Talostone® strongly recommend slabs be transported, fabricated and installed by professionals with experience dealing with natural stone.*
- I. Products such as marble, granite, quartzite, dolomite etc. are all natural stones and as such, are subject to variations and naturally occurring imperfections. These may include but are not limited to:*
  - Variations in slab dimensions, including length, height and thickness.*
  - Variations in colouring, veining, grain structure and raw material/mineral compositions.*
  - Surface finish and/or texture.*
  - The presence of any cracks, veins, fissures, pitting, stylolites or crazing.*
  - The presence of insoluble minerals such as iron oxides, clays, pyrite etc.*

*Talostone® is not liable for any such variations and/or imperfections present in any Natroccia® product sold, nor is the Company liable for any attempts by the fabricator to repair or disguise any variation or imperfection. All materials should be thoroughly inspected prior to pick up and again prior to fabrication to ensure suitability.*

- J. *Within the confines of current local and national Government regulations as well as those set out in the Competition and Consumer Regulations 2010, the Company's responsibility is limited to the replacement of products supplied only.*
- K. *Talostone® shall not be held liable for any other loss or damage incurred by the customer as a direct or indirect result caused by defective materials. All slabs should be thoroughly inspected and approved fit for purpose prior to fabrication.*
- L. *Talostone® will not be held liable for any damage to our product or any other loss incurred by the customer once any item has been loaded by Talostone® staff. Once materials have been loaded, responsibility for said materials will immediately transfer to the customer. This includes the transportation / delivery of our product to the customer or associated fabricator / storage facility.*
- M. *Talostone® accepts no responsibility, liability or insurance cover for any paid goods stored in our warehouse. Customer chooses to store goods on our premises at their own risk.*
- N. *The Company accepts no responsibility for any chips, cracks or other damage incurred after the release of the product from our warehouse.*
- O. *The Company will not be held liable for any changes in the physical appearance of the stone, either prior to fabrication, during fabrication or after installation. This includes but is not limited to;*
- *Changes in colour etc. due to sealants, adhesives or grouts used.*
  - *Changes associated to cleaning or cleaning products.*
  - *General wear of the material, including varying surface finishes or scratches.*
  - *Stains.*
  - *Excessive heat.*
  - *Exposure to UV exposure or other weather elements.*
  - *Misuse or mistreatment of any of our products.*
- P. *No claim is to be made against Talostone® once the material has been cut, fabricated, fixed or altered in any way.*
- Q. *The Company will not be held liable for the upkeep, maintenance or failure of any stain, wear or anti slip treatments used on our products.*
- R. *Talostone® accepts no responsibility for any variations between product samples and actual product purchased. We strongly recommend visual inspection and approval of current stock by the customer prior to purchase.*
- S. *Ownership of any products purchased will only be transferred to the customer once payment has been made in full and cleared by any relevant bank.*
- T. *Terms & Conditions do not cover materials and/or services that have not been paid for in full.*
- U. *Prices are subject to change at any time without prior notice.*
- V. *Any quotation issued by Talostone® is strictly only valid for 30 days net. Please attain updated quote once 30 days have lapsed from original quote date.*
- W. *Talostone® will not be held liable for any advise provided in relation to product suitability, fabrication or maintenance. Any advise or information provided by the Company is done in good faith by staff. It is up to the customer to seek professional advise specific to their individual situation and circumstances.*

## **HONED & LEATHERED FINISHES**

*Selected Talostone® Natroccia® colours are available in either a Honed or Leathered finish. As the surface texture on the Honed and Leathered finishes are significantly different in relation to shine, glossy substances such as water marks, finger prints and product residue tend to be more visible on these surfaces. As such, they may require more daily cleaning and maintenance. By accepting our Terms & Conditions, the customer acknowledge the additional maintenance requirements prior to purchasing Natroccia® slabs in either the Honed or Leathered finish.*

## **BOOK-MATCHED SLABS**

*Selected Talostone® Natroccia® colours are book-matched to assist with achieving continued vein design over larger areas. However, as these slabs are natural, each slab is unique and even book-matched slabs may not able to be matched 100%. By accepting our Terms & Conditions, the customer acknowledges this and accepts that it is the stonemasons responsibility to work with book-matched slabs to achieve the best possible result.*

## **PAYMENTS**

- A. Amount payable is the sum of all products on the order plus any applicable service charges and taxes.*
- B. Payment can be made via Bank cheque, Electronic Funds Transfer, Debit card or Credit card. Any payments made via credit card will be subject to a 1% surcharge (2% surcharge for AMEX).*
- C. A sale will be automatically cancelled and slabs released for resale purposes unless paid in full within 30 days from date of order, unless previously agreed upon.*

## **COLLECTION**

- A. Talostone® do not organise delivery for any of our products, materials or items for sale. Customer must arrange their own pick up or delivery.*
- B. Talostone® are not a common carrier and as such, will not be held responsible for determining the safe load capacity of any vehicle. Staff will load products to weight specified by the carrier. Safe weight or dimension capacities are to be determined by the carrier.*
- C. The carrier accepts full responsibility for securing any materials purchased from the Company for transport / delivery.*
- D. Any orders paid in full but not collected within 45 days (unless previously agreed upon) may be cancelled and any monies paid by the customer retained by the Company.*
- E. Uncollected goods purchased may be disposed of as per regulations stated in the Uncollected Goods Act applicable to the relevant state where goods are held.*



## **RETURNS**

- A. *The customer must contact Talostone® within 24 hours of collection for any return related to a defect or damage to an item sold by the Company.*
- B. *Talostone® reserves the right to accept or decline returned goods.*
- C. *Under no circumstances shall the claim by the customer be greater than the invoice value of the faulty goods.*
- D. *It is the customers sole responsibility to return relevant items to Talostone®. This includes any costs incurred in doing so.*
- E. *A 10% restock fee will apply to any accepted returns.*
- F. *No returns will be accepted after 14 days from the date of pick up.*
- G. *Customer 'change of mind' will not be accepted.*
- H. *'Surplus goods' will not be accepted.*
- I. *Any stock purchased at a discounted price will not be accepted.*
- J. *Any product that has been cut, damaged or compromised in any way will not be accepted.*
- K. *Any items not from a current batch in our warehouse will not be accepted.*
- L. *Any materials purchased from a third party will not be accepted.*

## **INDENT ORDERS**

- A. *Indent orders will only be considered for a minimum order of 20 slabs.*
- B. *Please allow 12-16 weeks for any items ordered from overseas to become available for pick up from our warehouse.*
- C. *A 50% non refundable deposit is required on any custom order at time of order placement, with the balance being due once stock becomes available for pick up from our warehouse.*
- D. *Any indent order not paid for in full within 30 days from date of availability may be cancelled and any deposit amount paid retained by the Company. Talostone® reserves the right to re-sell goods from said order.*
- E. *Any orders paid in full but not collected within 45 days (unless previously agreed upon) may be cancelled and any monies paid by the customer retained by the Company to cover costs incurred.*
- F. *No returns will be accepted on indent orders.*
- G. *Indent orders may be subject to additional Terms & Conditions. In any such instance, the customer will be advised prior to order being placed.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & ACCEPTANCE**

- A. *Talostone® reserves the right to alter or modify these Terms & Conditions without prior notice at our own discretion.*
- B. *By submitting an order, the customer agrees to be bound by these Terms & Conditions*



# **NATROCCIA®**

*by* TALOSTONE®

## **NSW**

### **Head Office & Warehouse**

97 Jedda Road, Prestons NSW 2170

(02) 8783 0600

[info@talostone.com.au](mailto:info@talostone.com.au)

### **City Experience Centre - Sydney**

1/1 Danks Street, Waterloo NSW 2017

(02) 9698 6666

[tcecsydney@talostone.com.au](mailto:tcecsydney@talostone.com.au)

## **VIC**

### **Victoria Distribution Hub**

16 Furlong street Cranbourne West VIC 3977

(03) 9113 2277

[info@talostone.com.au](mailto:info@talostone.com.au)