MINQzero

Mineral Surfaces

by TALOSTONE®

FABRICATION, INSTALLATION SAFETY & HEALTH PROTECTION GUIDE



www.talostone.com.au

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Talostone® Fabrication & Installation, Safety & Health Protection Guide

Important Notes!

This Guide includes health & safety 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 professional advisor. All stonemasons, who work on Talostone® slabs, agree that their business operations already meet SafeWork Australia and OHS Australia standards prior to purchasing and fabricating Talostone® 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® offer a wide range of MinQ® Zero Mineral Surfaces stone products for high quality, luxurious interior designs at a more cost-effective rate in comparison to traditional stone solutions.

Operating since 2013, Talostone® is a professional wholesaler of MinQ® Zero Mineral Surfaces stone slabs. We stock jumbo size slabs across our range, helping homeowners and developers save on material costs and allowing designers to maximise slab usage and design potential.

At Talostone®, we take the design and manufacturing of our products very seriously and invest heavily in Research and Development. On average, it takes a year and a half from original conception to the release of a new colour. Our Marble Range and Premium Marble Range colours are matched as closely as possible to the equivalent natural marble veins and colouring, allowing us to accurately imitate the beauty of natural stone.
Talostone® Premium Marble Range colours with wide veins are manufactured in pairs to assist designers in utilising the matching of major veins across joins to achieve the design over larger areas, much like book matched natural stone.

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

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

Talostone® offers a 15-year Limited Warranty to original MinQ® Zero purchasers with respect to the quality of the slabs purchased directly from Talostone® provided fabrication and installation has been carried out by a licensed stonemason.

Talostone® offers a 15-year Limited Residential and Commercial Warranty to the Stonemason in respect to each qualified MinQ® Zero slab sold by Talostone® directly to the stonemason.

Any failure by a stonemason to comply with the recommended methods of fabrication and installation of MinQ® Zero bench tops from Talostone® slabs may result in claims by an end user against the stonemason and refusal by Talostone® to accept a claim made by an end user under 15-year Limited Warranty given for our MinQ® Zero slabs by Talostone®.

Under no circumstance shall Talostone® MinQ® Zero slabs be allowed to be re-sold to anyone, Talostone® is the only brand distributing our MinQ® Zero slabs. The terms and conditions of the MinQ® Zero 15-year Limited Residential and Commercial Warranty to the stonemasons and end users are set forth in this manual. Please direct any questions about the recommendations in this manual to Talostone® Head Office.

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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.

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Contents

General Product information 6

Slab Return Policy 8

Safety Guidelines 9

Handling 10

Vehicle Loads 11

Securing the Load 11

Storage 11

Visual Slab Inspection & Identification 12

Colour Matching 12

Quartz Pattern Irregularity 13

Batch Numbering 13

OSHA 15

Truck Driver Requirements 15

PERSONAL HEALTH & SAFETY 16

Respirable Crystalline Silica 16

Introduction 16

General Prevention Principles 18

Ventilation & Filtration System 19

Dust Monitoring & Supervision 20

Personal Protective Equipment 20

Hygiene & Cleaning 21

Administration, Regulation & Maintenance .. 22

Training Employees on Safety & Hygiene … 23

Health Surveillance 23

Other Information & Disclaimers 23

Health & Safety Warning Sticker 24

FABRICATION INSTRUCTIONS 26

Tools and Safety Equipment 26

Basic Fabrication Guidelines 27

Internal Corners 27

Cut-outs 28

Splash back Clearances 29

Sink Drainage Grooves 31

Joins & Edge Profiles 32

Transportation 36

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES 37

Structural support 41

Wall Cladding 42

Flooring 43

Fireplace Cladding 43

After Installation 43

CARE & MAINTENANCE 44

Heat Tolerance 45

Scratch Resistance 45

WARRANTY 47

Product Specifications 52

Terms & Conditions 53

Locations & Contact Information 57

GENERAL TALOSTONE® MinQ® ZERO PRODUCT INFORMATION

At Talostone®, we understand the importance of safe stone practices and we have taken this into account while developing our MinQ® Zero range. MinQ® technology enables Talostone® to supply slabs containing less than 1% Crystalline Silica. This not only ensures safer products for fabricators but also provides peace of mind to our customers.

Equally important to us here at Talostone®, is ensuring the best quality products to our customers, and the development of the MinQ® technology is no exception. We believe that our MinQ® technology not only meets, but exceeds expectations in terms of quality, durability and strength. With years spent developing the Talostone® MinQ® Zero Range, we have managed to create a product equalled to our previous range in every way, including the beautiful and unique designs of each and every colour in our extensive range, only safer.

It is important to note that while our MinQ® Zero technology contain no more than potential trace elements of Crystalline Silica (<1%), the same safe-cutting practices must be followed as with any other stone. 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® MinQ® Zero is ideal for a wide range of interior commercial and residential applications, including those subject to heavy use. Common Talostone® MinQ® Zero applications include: kitchen and vanity bench tops, interior wall panels, feature walls, flooring and furniture pieces.

Talostone® MinQ® Zero is NOT suitable for exterior use, nor any areas that are exposed to direct sunlight, UV radiation or excessive heat over 100˚C.

Slab Size

- 3200mm x 1600mm

Slab thickness

- 20mm.

Material nominal weight

- 20mm thickness material weighs 40-45kg per square metre.

Current Talostone® MinQ® Zero Ranges (from economical range to luxury range):

- 1 - Standard Range
- 2 - Deluxe Range
- 3 - Marble Range
- 4 - Premium Marble Range

The slab dimensions are nominal only. These are to be used for storage and transportation purposes. Actual usable slab surface varies slightly 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.

Talostone® MinQ® Zero Paired Slabs

Talostone® MinQ® Zero Premium Marble Range colours with wide veins are manufactured in pairs to assist designers in utilising the matching of major veins to achieve a continuous design over larger areas, much like book matched natural stone. However, As the nature of manufacturing these colours is done slab by slab, the paired slabs are not able to be matched 100% and it is the stonemasons responsibility to work on the paired slabs to achieve the best possible result.

Talostone® MinQ® Zero Finish Options

Selected Talostone® MinQ® Zero colours are available in either a Matte or Leather Honed finish, adding luxurious texture to our stone. These various finishes carry the same warranties as our polished finish slabs but as the surface texture on the Matte and Leather Honed 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 and may require more daily cleaning and maintenance.

Talostone MinQ® Zero Product Specifications

Talostone MinQ® Zero Product Specifications (*Page 49*) was the updated Talostone® MinQ® Zero product specifications by the time we revised this version. Please check with Talostone® before you quote to your customers. All above information is subject to change without notice. For the latest version of Talostone® MinQ® Zero Product Specifications, please contact Talostone® Head Office on 02 8783 0600 or info@talostone.com.au.

Slab Return Policy

Any slab that is not suitable should be returned for credit or exchange. This can only be done providing the slab has not been altered in any way. If returned within seven days of pick up, no restocking fee is applied. After seven days, a restocking fee of AUD $100.00 + GST may apply for each slab being returned.

- Slab(s) cannot be returned later than 14 days from the date of slab pick up.
- Slab(s) cannot be returned if damaged in any way.
- Slab(s) cannot be returned if there is any outstanding invoice not paid.
- Slab(s) cannot be returned if Talostone® have no slabs left from the same batch at our warehouse.

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 essential. 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. ANY DRY FABRICATING PROCESS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Always shape and cut material with wet tools to reduce the risk 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. 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 in Australia, Talostone® have no way of determining this at our premises. As a guide, you must allow approximately 180kg per 12mm slab, 280kg per 20mm slab, and 400kg per 30mm 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® MinQ® Zero 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. Care must be taken to store Talostone® MinQ® Zero slab in a way that allows for easy identification of colour and batch numbers.

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: *Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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® MinQ® Zero 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:
    - 1.0mm for 12mm slab thickness.
    - 1.0mm for 20mm slab thickness.
    - 1.5mm for 30mm slab thickness.
- Inconsistent gloss levels.
- Colour consistency within the sheet for plain colours.
- Warpage*: 3200mm length direction <= 3.0mm, 1600mm width direction <= 2.0mm;
- Surface pits/voids/impurities (Please note that surface pits are common on Leather Honed finishes as part of the design and are not considered a defect.)

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

Note: *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. If unsure, please reach out to Talostone with any concerns prior to fabrication.*

Colour Matching

An essential element of slab inspection is checking for colour match. The composition of Talostone® products produce a slight colour variations between production cycles due to the innate and complex blending of natural minerals – a characteristic inherent in the product. As such, we strongly advise against using slabs from different batches within the same area and never have slabs from different batches butting up against each other.

Quartz Pattern Irregularity

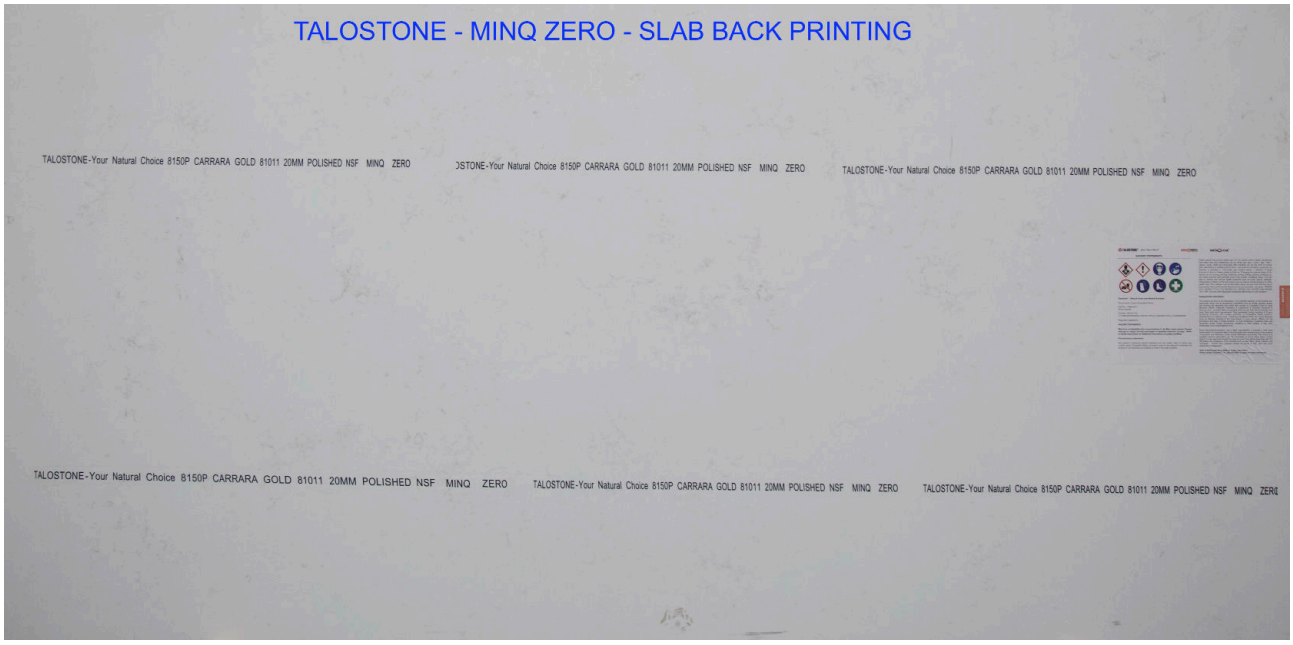
The manufacturer of Talostone® has engineered its products to have random distribution throughout the slab. The nature of “random distribution” is such that sometimes particles will congregate in one area or will be segregated in another. If any obvious irregular distribution of particles is apparent in the slab, 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 should ensure a colour match. However, a visual inspection of the slabs is recommended prior to cutting to confirm consistency in colour shading. Due to the raw materials originating from natural sources, 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 in the same area and never butting up to each other.

Talostone® brand name, Company slogan, Colour code, Colour name, Batch number, thickness, Surface finish type, Certificates type (only for selected colours) as well as MinQ® ZERO (<1% Crystalline Silica formula) information can be found on the back of each and every slab.

Product Information on the back of slabs





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

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 to the customer.

PERSONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA

Guide Introduction

Stone, like the other earth materials, contain crystalline silica which is dangerous when inhaled. Although Talostone® MinQ® Zero products contain <1% crystalline silica, during the fabrication and processing, the dust generated may contain trace elements of crystalline silica. 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.

Note: Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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.

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

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 for detailed information.

It is important to note that the exposure and personal protection precautions are only necessary for the fabrication of Talostone® MinQ® Zero products (cutting, sawing, polishing etc.), due to the dust that may be generated in the process potentially 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 advise 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 lease 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 (scaring 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 advise 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.

Version 2024.v1 01/07/2024

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FABRICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Tools and Safety Equipment

It is critically important that all licensed stonemasons wishing to fabricate Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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 strongly recommended in order to meet this objective.

Basic Tools

- Bridge saw
- Electric/pneumatic polisher (variable speed preferred)
- Diamond grinding wheel
- Diamond polishing pad
- 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

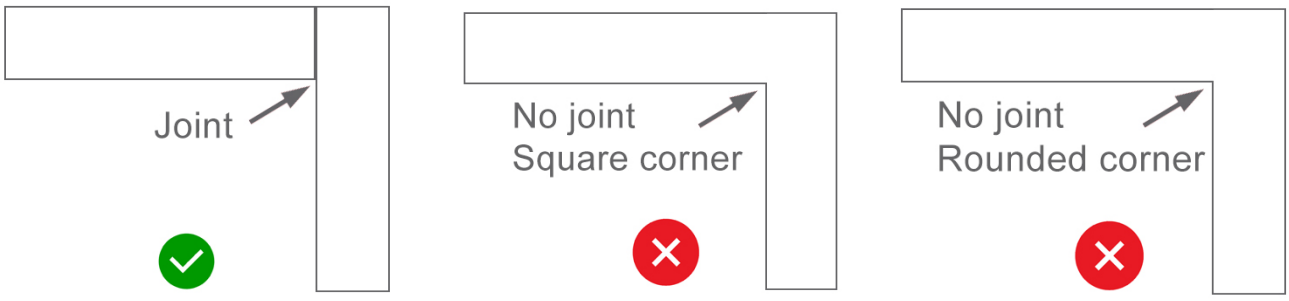
Basic Fabrication Guidelines

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

- **DRY FABRICATING PROCESSES ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE ON ANY TALOSTONE® PRODUCTS, WET TOOLS MUST BE USED AT ALL TIMES.**
- To avoid unsafe levels of dust (which may also contain trace elements of crystalline silica) and/or overheating the slab, only water-fed tools should be used for cutting, drilling, and polishing Talostone® MinQ® Zero slabs.
- Do not change the original surface finish of the slabs by re-polishing, honing, sealing, or otherwise altering the factory finish.
- 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 dust (potentially containing trace elements of crystalline silica) being generated and/or overheating the area which may result in cracks or other damage to the stone.

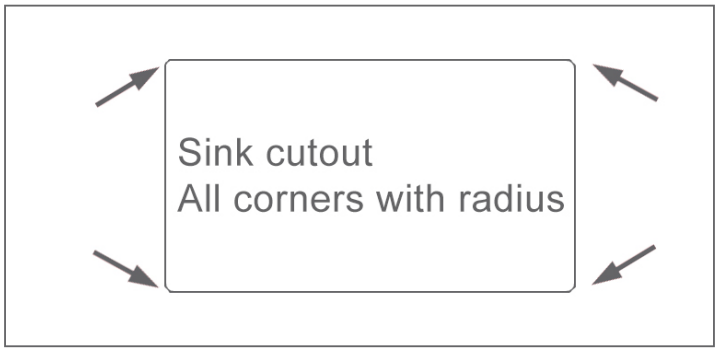
Internal Corners

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.

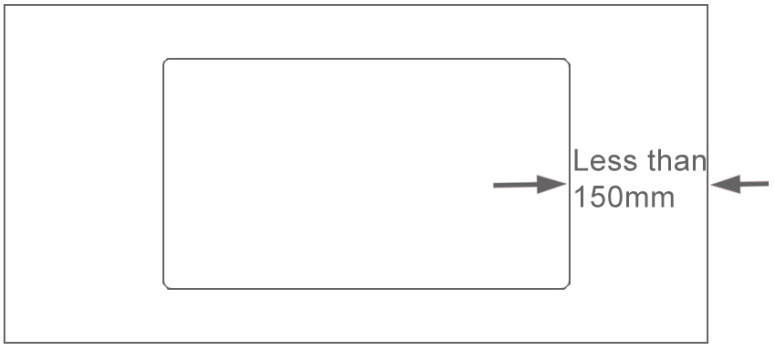


CUT-OUTS

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.

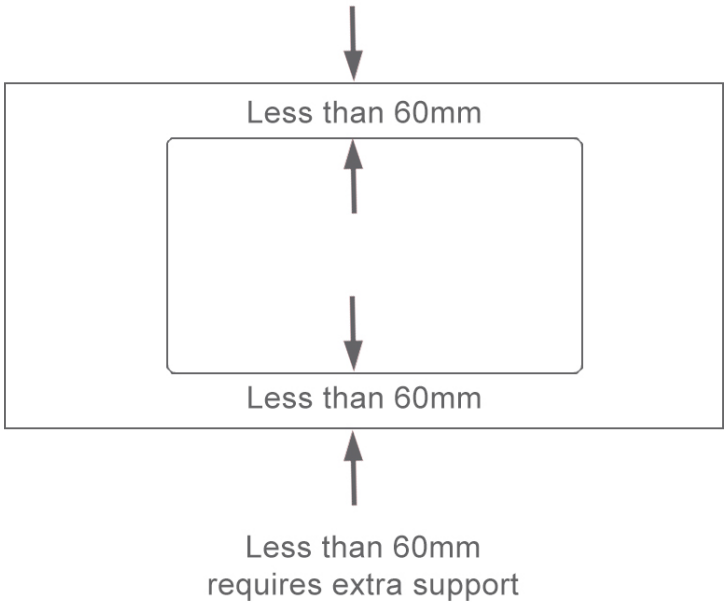


If the distance between the cut-out and a joint is less than 150mm, the area needs to be supported. This can be achieved by ensuring that all joints are placed at the junction of the base cabinets or a solid slat be fitted under the joint.



Less than 150mm
requires extra support

The distance between a cut-out and an edge or join must be no less than 60 mm, the greater the distance, the stronger the area. For cut-outs which result in less than 60mm rails either to the front or back, these sections need to re made from separate pieces to avoid issues with cracking. Please advise the customer that separate rails should be used.



Pit Burners

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



Splash Back 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. Failure to comply will void any and all Talostone® Warranties.

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 to allow for movement and expansion.



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 6mm.



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 actual cut-out and the milled down edge are slightly larger than the sink. Follow directions as per sink installation instructions but we strongly recommend that the gap between the top edge of the stone and the top edge of the sink be no less than 1.5mm on all four sides to prevent damage to the stone from sink movement or expansion. Flush-mounted sinks should be sealed to the stone using 100% silicone.

Sink drainage grooves

Talostone® MinQ® Zero products are perfect for drainage grooves, especially the Marble range and Premium Marble range colours, as the patterns and veins are consistent throughout the thickness of the slab.



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 and may need to be cleaned more thoroughly using a soft bristle brush.

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

WALL SOCKETS / SWITCHES

Use overlapping drill holes for smaller cut-outs. For larger or square cut-out, drill corner holes before cutting.

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.

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.
- Chiseled or hammered edges are not approved edge details.
- Care must be taken not to over-polish edges in excess of the factory surface polish.
- **Talostone® do not recommend mitred edges for any drop-down panels which need to be polished on a job site as this will cause un-safe level of dust (potentially containing trace elements of crystalline silica) at the job site. We only recommend mitred edges that can be done within the factory with no additional polishing required on site and strongly recommend mitred edges with a shadow line or butt joint for any drop-down panels (eg. waterfalls, leg returns, face panels etc.) to eliminate the need to carry out further polishing on site.**

Polishing Edge Profiles

Polishing any Talostone® MinQ® Zero edge profile should be done in a progressive manner using only granite, marble or engineered stone diamond polishing pads. This should only be done in the stonemasons workshop and 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® MinQ® Zero should be done by starting with a surface that is smooth, clean, and free from any residual adhesive.

Recommended polishing process for Talostone® MinQ® Zero:

The type 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 un-acceptable levels of dust (potentially containing trace elements of crystalline silica) as well as overheating. Excessive heat undermines the physical structure of the slab 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 stonemason, 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 manufacturing process. If the expected outcomes can not 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

- 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 2mm bevel. Our preferred minimum edge profile is a 2 - 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 join for maximum strength.

Note: Chips incurred whilst cutting mitre edges is not covered by our warranty.

Recommended procedure for Leather Honed Finish edges

The natural, unique look of our Leather Honed finish have a low level of gloss, making it beautiful to 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 preferred, special fabrication and brushes will be required for the edge detail.

1. Complete cutting the surface into the required pieces/sections, before proceeding with polishing.
2. Using clamps, attach all pieces required for the final design to a suitable work surface.
3. Cut or shape the required edge profile.
4. Smooth and polish the edge shape, following standard polishing procedures and according to regular levels – up to a maximum of 100–120 grain, using a generous amount of water.

5. Polishing a texture finish edge will require approximately the same amount of time as polishing a regular edge.

6. Use a suitable manual, electric or pneumatic angle grinder – with a low RPM of 600–1200. Connect it to a source of water and attach a 60 grain special texture brush.

7. Continue polishing until the edge attains a homogeneous finish.

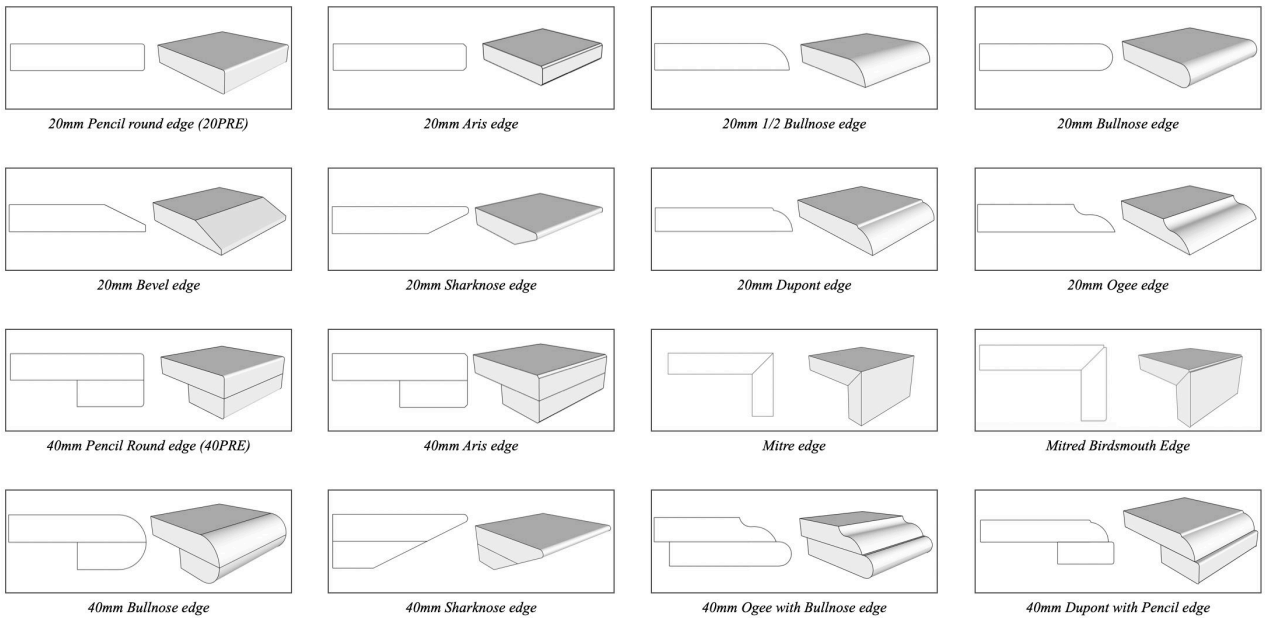
8. Change the brush to a 120 grain and polish until there are no visible signs remaining of the 60 grain brush.

9. Repeat the above with 400, 800 and 1600 grain brushes or until the edge is consistent with surface finish.

Note: Only Certified Stonemasons with the ability to do these types of edges can fabricate these edges. All edge polishing processes must be carried out using a generous amount of water to minimise the dust levels as per local and national laws and regulations.

Edge profiles

Below profiles are just a small example of the extensive range of edge profile options for the MinQ® Zero collection, speak to your chosen designer or stone mason to discuss further options.



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

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® MinQ® Zero 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

- Time and skill has been spent in the factory manufacturing a first-class product, good racking is essential for getting the product to the site without incidents or damage.
- Many rack designs have been made for stone slab transportation. Some stonemasons prefer to have a removable “A” frame that they can hoist off the delivery vehicle.
- 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® MinQ® Zero products. 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 means the light that strikes the surface of the slabs is diffused 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 and the tops of the cabinets must be flat. The cabinets should be affixed to each other and then secured to the back wall. 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.

- Fabricated Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces are installed on top of cabinets and are not attached to the wall.
- Before installing Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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® MinQ® Zero bench tops.
- Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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 600 mm, ensure there is firm side-to-side support underneath.

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.

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® MinQ® Zero 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® MinQ® Zero bench tops by attaching a board between the cabinet tops 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 Talostone® MinQ® Zero pieces of the surface 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 are 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 from natural expansion and contraction movements.
- 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 Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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 the required shade is achieved.
- 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 join.
- 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 on Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces.

Sealing Between the Surface and the Wall

- Clean the space between the Talostone® MinQ® Zero surface and the wall.
- Fill the space generously with a flexible adhesive such as neutral 100% neutral cure silicone.
- The silicone adhesive prevents water from entering the cabinet.
- For visible joins between Talostone® MinQ® Zero surface and a different material, use coloured silicone.
- If the cabinets are supported on adjustable legs, ensure that all legs are evenly tensioned for maximum stability.

Overhangs

An overhang is a surface that is not directly supported 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.

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.

Approximate guidelines for support required for overhangs.

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

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

STRUCTURAL SUPPORT

Below are some guidelines on installation and support types:

Bench Tops

- Talostone® MinQ® Zero must be supported on a strong perimeter frame.
- Front-to-back support within the cabinet should be provided every 600mm. Plan for front-to-back support strips 40mm–100mm wide to coincide with cutouts and periodic support.
- Do not undercut corners.
- Allow room for expansion between bench tops and walls.
- 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, we recommend that you follow the sink manufacturers' recommendations.

- For cutouts, follow the recommendations on Page 28 of this manual. For under-mount installations, follow the minimum edge profile recommendations around the cutout to reduce the risk of chipping. Our recommended minimum edge profile is a 3mm bevel. Our preferred minimum edge profile is a 3 - 4mm Pencil Round edge.
- 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 independently of the Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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® MinQ® Zero products.

Table Tops

If you are using Talostone® MinQ® Zero as a freestanding tabletop, care needs to be taken to secure the tabletop to the base firmly. This is of the upmost importance when the table has only one central leg as support. A silicone adhesive is not enough to adequately secure the Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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 the local engineering specifications, laws, and regulations.

- Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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® MinQ® Zero surfaces do 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 or professional.
- Talostone® MinQ® Zero 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. The installer is responsible for ensuring the removal of any such contaminant prior to the commencement of Talostone® MinQ® Zero installation.
- 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.
- Observe good stone working and safety practices at all times and comply with applicable building codes and regulations.

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® MinQ® Zero collection colours can be used as fireplace surrounds with electric or gas heaters without any issue. Please check with the fireplace manufacturer as they would have more detailed information relating 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® MinQ® Zero is NOT recommended for inner fireplace panelling.

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® MinQ® Zero bench top is complete, ensure that the Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces are properly protected by covering the entire top with corrugated cardboard or another protective material such as Talostone® Protective Film (TPF), available from Talostone.

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

We strongly recommend that your customer confirms, 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® MinQ® Zero 15-Year Limited Warranty as well as Care & Maintenance details for the customer.

Care and Maintenance

Everyday Cleaning

Because all Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces are high in density and low in porosity, normal cleaning with a damp cloth and mild detergent* is all that is required to maintain your Talostone® MinQ® Zero bench tops. Just be sure to rinse thoroughly after with clean water before drying off with a soft, clean microfibre cloth using round, circular motions. Gentle sprays may also be used but we recommend rinsing thoroughly afterwards to avoid product buildup on your Talostone® MinQ® Zero bench tops.

Whenever possible, we recommend wiping up any spills on your bench top surface with a soft cloth or kitchen paper while the spills are still damp. If further cleaning is needed, apply a spray of mild detergent and leave for 2-3 minutes before rinsing thoroughly and drying.

We do not recommend using abrasive cleaners or pads on Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces as these could damage the surface finish and/or reduce the surface shine.

Please do not leave soapy water sitting on your Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces as caustic soda and other ingredients used in various soaps and dish washing liquids may erode the surface finish and damage the stone over time. Place protective mats under washed dishes and drying racks, rinse sink and tap surround with clean water after every use and dry area thoroughly using a soft clean cloth.

Deep Cleaning

We recommend thoroughly cleaning your Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces on a 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 it to the Talostone® MinQ® Zero surface. Clean your bench top using small, circular motions whilst applying firm pressure before rinsing thoroughly with clean water and dry using circular movements with a clean, soft microfibre cloth.

Alternatively, you can also us our Talostone® Cream Cleanser** for a deep clean. Simply follow above procedures but use less pressure to prevent damaging the surface.

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 area with warm soapy water and leaving it for 5 minutes. Once the dried residue becomes soft, it can be removed with a dry, soft cloth. If the stain proves to be stubborn, Talostone® Cream Cleanser and a damp cloth may be used, following the above mentioned procedures. Please apply the cleaning cream to the cloth rather than directly onto the surface. Stains or marks that have been left for some time may not be removed completely after just one clean. In these instances, please deep clean the area daily until all marks disappear completely.

Matte and Leather honed finishes

Matte and Leather Honed surfaces traditionally require more daily maintenance than polished finishes. Due to the difference in texture on Matte or Leather Honed finishes, stains and other signs of daily living will show more easily on these surfaces.

As the surface reflection on the Matte and Leather Honed finishes are also significantly different in relation to shine, glossy substances such as water marks, finger prints and cleaning 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® MinQ® Zero bench top when reflected by light. Most marks or stains can be removed easily using non-abrasive cleaning products mentioned above.

Heat Tolerance

Talostone® MinQ® Zero Mineral Surfaces contains natural quartz which allows the surface to tolerate brief exposures to moderately warm temperatures. However, as with all stone surfaces, any sudden or rapid temperature change can cause thermal shock, discolouration or other damage so we strongly advise against hot pots, pans or plates being placed directly onto the surface.

Scratch Resilience

Because all Talostone® MinQ® Zero Mineral surfaces are engineered, they are highly scratch resistant and durable. However, the surface is not indestructible and any stone can be damaged by metal or other sharp objects. We strongly recommend the use of a cutting board to avoid damage to your Talostone® MinQ® Zero surface.

Cleaning Agents to Avoid

All Talostone® MinQ® Zero surfaces are engineered to the highest chemical resistance levels available but strong chemicals or solvents may still permanently damage the slab. We do not recommend the use of any strong caustic chemical cleaners. If your Talostone® MinQ® Zero surface is accidentally exposed to such chemicals, rinse the area immediately with clean water to neutralise the effect. Even when a spill has been wiped away, residual chemicals may remain on the surface if the area has not been thoroughly rinsed, further damaging the stone surface.

Sink and Tap Surrounds

Talostone® MinQ® Zero products, as well as previous versions thereof, are highly durable, non-porous material, designed to withstand normal everyday use. However, like most surfaces, it is not completely immune to changes in appearance or surface texture when exposed to certain chemicals, substances or conditions.

Areas immediately surrounding sinks and tapware are particularly susceptible due to frequent contact with water, cleaning products, dishwashing liquids and other household substances. Although mild detergents are generally suitable for everyday cleaning, their chemical compositions can vary considerably between brands. Some products may contain ingredients that, when left in prolonged contact with the surface, can potentially affect the resin components or surface finish of stone, resulting in dullness, discolouration or changes in texture.

Prolonged moisture can also contribute indirectly to these effects, particularly when combined with cleaning residues, mineral deposits or substances transferred from surrounding materials. Wet sponges, tea towels, cleaning cloths and rubber-backed drying mats can trap moisture against the stone, creating conditions where chemicals, fabric dyes, rubber additives or other residues remain in contact with the surface for extended periods, potentially causing irreversible damage to your Talostone® bench tops.

Similarly, areas immediately surrounding tapware may be exposed to mineral deposits from water, cleaning product residues or, in some circumstances, corrosion products from metal fittings. These substances can accumulate around the base of taps, potentially contributing to staining, discolouration or changes in surface appearance.

It is also important to distinguish between surface deposits and actual changes to the stone's finish. Mineral build-up, product residue or transferred materials may create a rough, dull or uneven appearance without necessarily causing permanent damage. Conversely, exposure to incompatible chemicals or abrasive cleaning methods may result in genuine changes to the surface texture that cannot be removed or reversed.

To help maintain the original appearance and finish of your Talostone® bench tops, we recommend regularly rinsing away cleaning residues, wiping down areas surrounding sinks and taps, and avoiding prolonged contact with wet cloths, drying mats or household chemicals. Any cleaning products used should be suitable for stone and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's care and maintenance recommendations.

Talostone® MinQ® Zero Warranty Policy

Residential and Commercial 15-Year Limited Warranty

Thank you for the purchase of your new Talostone® MinQ® Zero surface, a leading brand for Mineral Surfaces in Australia. All Talostone® MinQ® Zero products come with a 15-Year Limited Warranty applicable to our products.

Talostone® will warrant from the original date of installation. Material that fails due to any Talostone® MinQ® Zero slab manufacturing defect when fabricated and installed by a qualified, licensed stonemason/fabricator who complies with all Health & Safety requirements from Safe Work Australia (www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au) for stone fabrication. This warranty applies to the repair or replacement of failed material that has been permanently installed in your residence. The option to repair or replace the material is at the sole discretion of Talostone®.

This 15-Year Limited Warranty is available to residential and commercial jobs in which Talostone® MinQ® Zero has been originally installed. This Warranty is only available to the first owner of the property or residence.

Terms and Conditions

A. *This warranty applies only to Talostone® MinQ® Zero Mineral Surface materials supplied by Talostone®. It does not apply to any products supplied by any other party, including third party sellers of Talostone® MinQ® Zero Mineral Surface materials*

B. *This warranty applies only to Talostone® MinQ® Zero Mineral Surface materials that have been permanently installed in an interior application and has not been moved from it's original installation. If after or during installation you decide that you do not like the colour or finish you selected, that decision is not covered under this warranty.*

C. *This warranty does not cover any residence where the owner is not the occupant.*

D. *This warranty does not cover materials and/or services that have not been paid in full.*

E. *This warranty applies only to materials that have been maintained according to the Talostone® MinQ® Zero Care & Maintenance guidelines. Care & Maintenance guidelines are available at www.talostone.com.au.*

F. *To request service under this warranty you must contact the company who sold you Talostone® or contact Talostone® directly at (61) 02 8783 0600 within thirty (30) days of the failure of Talostone® MinQ® Zero Mineral Surface materials.*

G. *Following installation, you must register your product within thirty (30) days in order to activate your warranty. Simply complete the online form made available at www.talostone.com.au. In the event that no record of your warranty is on file, you must provide proof of purchase in the form of a copy of your original receipt or invoice showing the name of the Owner, Authorised Dealer and Licensed Fabricator. Upon copy of your original receipt or invoice showing the name of the Owner, Authorised Dealer and Licensed Fabricator, Talostone® will honour this warranty even though no warranty is on file. You must agree to cooperate with Talostone® or its authorised agents in the inspection of the product and assist us in our efforts to perform our obligations under this warranty.*

H. *Given that Talostone® MinQ® Zero Slabs are manufactured from natural materials, each slab is unique and varies to shading, quartz distribution, reflectivity does occur and are naturally occurring characteristics of the material. Consequently, (i) samples are indicative only and may vary from the final product; and (ii) naturally occurring variations in appearance caused by artificial or natural lighting are not covered by the warranty; Changes in the appearance of the slab from reflected light is a natural part of the slabs.*

I. *Inspections of the surface of the slabs is to be in a normal viewing position with the slab being illuminated by "non-critical light". Meaning of "Non-critical light" is the light that strikes the surface is diffused and is not glancing or parallel to that surface.*

J. *This warranty is not transferable.*

Exclusions

10. *This warranty does not cover products used as flooring material.*

11. *This warranty does not cover products installed in any outdoor application.*

12. *This warranty does not cover improper use or abuse. Improper use or abuse includes, but is not limited to, damage from mishandling of the product, damage from excessive heat or exposure to weather conditions, physical or chemical abuse or damage from improper care and maintenance, i.e placing hot items including, but not limited to, hot pans, electric frying pans or oven trays directly on the Slab nor constant or excessive heat from BBQ or Fireplace applications, etc.*

13. *Cracks in the material are not a material fault; cracking is the result of externally induced mechanical stress on the material after installation. The most likely causes are settlement or movement, excessive weight being placed on the tops, such as standing or sitting on them. Heat, as explained in section (3) may also result in a crack. Any crack emanating from an overhang, a sink cut-out, cook top cut-out or "L" shaped cut-out is also not covered under this warranty, these are not caused by any fault in the material.*

14. *This warranty does not cover chips or other excessive impact damage in the product. Chipping is not a material fault but rather the result of excessive heat or direct impact to the face or edge of the stone.*

15. *This warranty does not cover scratches. Talostone® MinQ® Zero is a very hard material and highly scratch resistant but not scratch proof. Proper care must be exercised including the use of cutting boards as part of your care and maintenance.*

16. *This warranty does not cover routine maintenance. This includes but is not limited to minor conditions such as removing stains, marks or water spots as well any significant and permanent damage caused by not carefully following the Talostone® MinQ® Zero online Care & Maintenance Guide such as surface damage around sinks caused by not keeping the area clean and dry. It is up to the consumer to follow the techniques specified in the Talostone® MinQ® Zero online Care & Maintenance Guide at www.talostone.com.au. Acceptance of this Warranty is also considered understanding and acknowledgement by the consumer that Talostone® MinQ® Zero products with a Matte or Leather Honed surface finish may require more daily cleaning and maintenance than products with a Polished surface finish. Due to the significant difference in relation to shine, stains or other signs of daily use such as water marks, finger prints or product residue tend to be more visible on these finishes.*

17. *This warranty does not cover failures due to fabricators/installers not following the prescribed fabrication and installation procedures as outlined in the Talostone® MinQ® Zero Fabrication, Installation, Safety & Health Guide. This includes damage such as cracks or chips as a result of "DRY" cutting or polishing. Improper fabrication and/or installation is the sole responsibility of the fabricator and/or installer.*

18. *This warranty does not cover any defect that was visible at the time of fabrication and was not avoided during fabrication. Fabricators are required to perform a visual inspection of all materials prior to fabrication and again prior to installation.*

19. *This warranty does not cover seam appearance or seam performance, adhesives, caulk or other accessory items. Once the product is installed, the two main reasons for seam separation or cracking are the shifting or movement of the substrate, cabinets or foundation and thermal shock. Thermal shock can occur when a hot pan, dish or other receptacle or object is placed in direct contact with or within close proximity to the stone. Trivets or hot pads should always be used. These issues are not considered material defects and are subject to proper care and maintenance by the owner.*

20. *This warranty does not cover material that has been milled or reduced in thickness.*

21. *This warranty does not cover the installation of sinks or other accessories.*

22. *This warranty does not cover products with mechanical fasteners secured directly into the material.*

23. *This warranty does not cover any failures due to inadequate support for the installation. This includes overhangs in excess of the recommendations provided by Talostone® which are inadequately supported.*

24. *This warranty does not cover any chemical damage, including but not limited to staining, discolouration, dulling, surface deterioration or changes in texture caused by exposure to harsh chemicals, prolonged or repeated contact with household cleaning products, detergents or chemical residues. This includes damage resulting from trapped moisture, chemical or dye transfer from wet sponges, tea towels, cleaning cloths, drying mats (including rubber or synthetic backings), as well as min.*

25. *This warranty does not cover mitred edges where the joint is not cut correctly.*

26. *This warranty does not cover Talostone® MinQ® Zero splash backs where the minimum distance from the periphery of the gas burner to the Talostone® MinQ® Zero splash back is less than 200mm.*

27. *This warranty does not cover the altering of any factory applied finish. Only colours listed as available in our brochure, sample book or on our website as "Polished", "Matte" or "Leather honed" are eligible under this warranty. Any issues arising from the practice of "in-shop" polishing or honing is the sole responsibility of the fabricator.*

28. *This warranty does not cover additional modifications such as plumbing, electrical, tile, Cabinets, flooring, etc. that may be necessary to repair or replace the Talostone® MinQ® Zero product covered under this warranty.*

29. *This warranty does not cover natural variations in the colour, size, shape and distribution of the pattern of the natural quartz or the natural variations in background tone, nor does it cover minor pitting in any product with a Leather Honed surface finish. These characteristics are inherent and unique characteristics of the product. Colour samples provided to consumers, dealers and fabricators are only representative and not an exact replication of what will be installed in your home.*

30. *This warranty does not cover what is referred to as spots or blemishes smaller than a ten (10) cent piece. A certain level of spots or blemishes are inherent in the manufacturing process and do not affect the structural integrity of the material.*

31. *Talostone® MinQ® Zero slabs contain important product information on the back of each slab. Removing this product information will void the warranty.*

Talostone® is not responsible for damage or injury caused in whole or in part by acts of God, job site conditions, architectural/engineering design, structural movement, acts of vandalism or accidents.

Talostone® shall not be responsible in either contract or tort for any loss of direct, indirect, consequential, incidental, special, exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of the use or the inability to use the products covered by this warranty. Some states do not allow exclusion or limitation of incidental damage, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

Privacy

I. Talostone® requires the information that it requests from you when you purchase the product and when you make a warranty claim in order to provide the warranty to you. For this purpose, it may be necessary to give your personal information to other companies.

II. Talostone® may also prepare aggregated user statistics or information summaries to describe the services of Talostone® and their popularity to business partners of Talostone® and prospective advertisers and for other lawful purposes. Such information may be disclosed by Talostone® to other companies appointed by it for this purpose. However, this information will not include information which identifies you personally.

III. Talostone® may also from time to time send you information regarding Talostone® range of products. If you do not wish to receive this information please advise us by calling Talostone® Head Office at 02 8783 0600 or sending an email to info@talostone.com.au.

THE FOREGOING IS THE COMPLETE WARRANTY FOR TALOSTONE® AND SUPERSEDES ALL OTHER WARRANTIES AND REPRESENTATIONS, WHETHER ORAL OR WRITTEN. EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY SET FORTH ABOVE, NO OTHER WARRANTIES ARE MADE WITH RESPECT TO TALOSTONE® EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES NOT STATE HEREIN, INCLUDING, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY WARRANTY THAT MAY EXIST UNDER NATIONAL, STATE, PROVINCIAL OR LOCAL LAW INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. SOME STATES OR OTHER JURISDICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from State to State.

Talostone® and MinQ® are registered trade marks of Talostone Pty Ltd, ACN 162 170 194.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Head Office & Warehouse
97 Jedda Rd, Prestons NSW 2170.
T. 02 8783 0600

City Experience Centre - Sydney
1/1 Danks Street, Waterloo NSW 2017
T. 02 9698 6666

VIC Distribution Hub
16 Furlong St. Cranbourne West VIC 3977
T. 03 9113 2277

MINQzero Mineral Surfaces

Dated: 1st July, 2026

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Colour Range	Colour Code	Colour Name	Finish	Pairs	Nominal slab size (mm)	Nominal thickness (mm)	Nominal m2 Weight (Kg)
Standard Range	5020 P	White MirrorLux™	*Polished*		3200 x 1600mm	20mm	*40-45Kg*
	6010 P	Desert White™	*Polished*				
Deluxe Range	8060 P	Serene White™	*Polished*		3200 x 1600 mm	20mm	*40-45Kg*
	3010 P	Arctic White™	*Polished*				
Marble Range	8080 M	Carrara Gioia™	*Matte*		3200 x 1600 mm	20mm	*40-45Kg*
	8080 P		*Polished*				
	8110 P	Carrara Classic™	*Polished*				
	8150 P	Carrara Gold™	*Polished*				
	8250 LH	Marmo Gris™	*Leather Honed*				
	8250 P		*Polished*				
	8300 LH	Elba White	*Leather Honed*				
	8300 P		*Polished*				
Premium Marble Range	9010 LH	Concrete Original™	*Leather Honed*		3200 x 1600 mm	20mm	*40-45Kg*
	9020 M	Imperial Danby™	*Matte*				
	9020 P		*Polished*				
	9080 M	Calacatta Gold™	*Matte*	✓			
	9080 P		*Polished*	✓			
	9030 M	Calacatta Luxe™	*Matte*	✓			
	9030 P		*Polished*	✓			
	9040 M	Calacatta Oro™	*Matte*	✓			
	9040 P		*Polished*	✓			
	9100 P	Onyx White™	*Polished*				
	9300 M	Super White™	*Matte*	✓			
	9400 M	Lord White™	*Matte*				
	9400 P		*Polished*				
	9500 M	Arabescato Borghini™	*Matte*				
	9500 P		*Polished*				
	9600 M	Arabescato Nero™	*Matte*				
	9600 P		*Polished*				
	9050 M	Calacatta Statuario™	*Matte*	✓			
	9050 P		*Polished*	✓			
	9060 M	Taj Mahal™ LIMITED	*Matte*				
	9090 M	Calacatta Viola™	*Matte*				
	9200M	Palazzo™	*Matte*				

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For the lastest TALOSTONE® *colour innovation, please visit* talostone.com.au

Important Notes:

- **The Talostone® MinQ® ZERO Mineral Surfaces Range contains 0% Crystalline Silica.**
- **Talostone do NOT support Stone masons who do not comply with Safety and Health Standards by Safework Australia. Stonemasons are responsible in complying with Australian Safety and Health Standards before ordering Talostone slabs. Talostone does not bear any responsibility for any re-selling activities.**
- For design inspirations please visit one our showrooms
  TCEC at 1/1 Danks Street, Waterloo NSW 2017 - Monday to Saturday 10:00-14:00 PH(02) 9698 6666
  VDH at 16 Furlong St. Cranbourne West VIC 3977 - Monday to Friday 8:00-16:00 PH(03) 9113 2277
- For more assistance from **TALOSTONE®**, please call 02 8783 0600 or email info@talostone.com.au, thank you for your support.

***Thank you for choosing* TALOSTONE® *-* Your Natural Choice®

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE

Thank you for your interest in Talostone® MinQ® Zero mineral surfaces. 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

A. The customer acknowledges, has read and accepts the Talostone® MinQ® Zero warranty and that failure to comply with the Talostone® MinQ® Zero Fabrication, Installation, Health and Safety Guide may result in this warranty becoming null and void.

B. 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.

C. Talostone® strongly recommends visual inspection of any slabs by the customer prior to purchase as returns/refunds may be refused after purchase.

D. Talostone® strongly recommend slabs be transported, fabricated and installed by professionals with experience working with stone.

E. Each MinQ® Zero slab is created individually and as such are subject to variations. These may include but are not limited to:

- *Slight variations in slab dimensions, including length, height and thickness.*
- *Variations in colouring, veining and grain structure.*
- *Variations in background tone and detail.*
- *Variation in ingredient dispersement throughout the slab.*
- *Variations in surface texture and gloss levels.*
- *Surface pits or other irregularities.*

It is the customers duty to thoroughly inspect slabs prior to fabrication and notify Talostone® immediately regarding any such variations and/or imperfections present in any Talostone® MinQ® Zero product sold if there are any concerns. Talostone® will not be held liable for any attempts by the fabricator to repair or disguise any variation or imperfection, nor will the Company accept liability if slabs have been cut or altered in any way.

F. *Within the confines of current local and national Government regulations and those set out in the Competition and Consumer Regulations 2010, the Company's responsibility is limited to the replacement of products supplied only.*

G. *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.*

H. *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.*

I. *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.*

J. *The Company accepts no responsibility for any chips, cracks or other damage incurred after the release of the product from our warehouse.*

K. *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.*
- *Excessive heat.*
- *Exposure to UV or other weather elements.*
- *Misuse or mistreatment of any of our products.*

L. *No claim is to be made against Talostone® once the material has been cut, fabricated, fixed or altered in any way.*

M. *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.*

N. *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.*

O. *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.*

P. *Terms & Conditions do not cover materials and/or services that have not been paid for in full.*

Q. *Prices are subject to change at any time without prior notice.*

R. *Any quotation issued by Talostone® is strictly only valid for 30 days net. Please attain updated quote once 30 days have lapsed from quote date.*

S. *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.*

MATTE & LEATHER HONED FINISHES

Selected Talostone® MinQ® Zero colours are available in either a Matte or Leather Honed finish. These finishes carry the same warranty as our polished finish slabs but as the surface texture on the Matte and Leather Honed 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 MinQ® Zero slabs in either the Matte and Leather Honed finish.

PAIRED SLABS

Selected Talostone® MinQ® Zero colours are manufactured in pairs to assist with achieving continued vein design over larger areas. However, as these slabs are manufactured individually, pairs are 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 the paired 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. A sale will be automatically cancelled and slabs released for resale purposes unless paid in full within 30 days from date of order, unless otherwise previously agreed upon.

COLLECTION

A. Talostone® do not organise delivery for any of our products, materials or items for sale. Customer is to arrange their own 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, pending customer reasoning for doing so.*

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 restocking fee of $100.00 + GST will apply to any accepted returns after 7 days from date of pick up.*

F. *No returns will be accepted after 14 days from the date of pick up.*

G. *Customer 'change of mind' may not be accepted.*

H. *'Surplus goods' may not be accepted.*

I. *Any stock purchased at a discounted price may not be accepted.*

J. *Any product that has been cut, damaged or marked in any way will not be accepted.*

K. *Any items not from the 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.*



MINQzero
Mineral Surfaces

by TALOSTONE®

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