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Jonathan Hill/iStock/Getty Images Marble is a metamorphic limestone that is widely used in the sculpturing of statues and the construction of buildings and monuments. It is commonly used in tiles, countertops and indoor flooring. Working with these materials generates marble dust, which can cause respiratory issues and irritation of the eyes and skin. Stone carving of a hard stone like marble requires the use of power tools such as saws, drills, grinders and sanders. Inhaling marble dust causes toxic effects on the respiratory system. Workers and residents living in areas adjacent to stone quarries are prone to a disease called silicosis, whereby inhaled marble dust damages the cells of the respiratory system. Symptoms include a chronic cough and shortness of breath. There is no specific treatment other than supportive treatment such as cough medicine, bronchodilators and oxygen. People with silicosis have a higher risk of developing tuberculosis. Wearing a protective respirator may decrease risk of inhaling marble dust. Grinding and polishing marble releases small particles of stone and dust into the air. Exposure to the eyes with airborne marble dust causes irritation because of the abrasiveness of the product. Recommended first-aid measures include flushing the eyes with water thoroughly for 15 minutes, gently lifting the eyelids and rinsing under the eyelids and avoid scrubbing or rubbing the eyes. Seek medical attention if irritation and discomfort persist. Wearing eye protection may decrease risk of eye irritation when working with marble. Marble dust is abrasive and causes irritation to the skin. Stonemasons who have long-term exposure to marble dust have a high risk of developing scleroderma. This is a rare and progressive disease that involves the hardening and tightening of the skin and connective tissue. It results from the overproduction and accumulation of collagen in the body tissues. Exposure to silica, which is a component found in marble dust, is one risk factor for developing scleroderma. A worker cuts black granite to make a countertop. Though granite, marble and "engineered stone" all can produce harmful silica dust when cut, ground or polished, the artificial stone typically contains much more silica, says a CDC researcher tracking cases of silicosis. danishkhan/Getty Images Artificial stone used to make kitchen and bathroom countertops has been linked to cases of death and irreversible lung injury in workers who cut, grind and polish this increasingly popular material. The fear is that thousands of workers in the United States who create countertops out of what's known as "engineered stone" may be inhaling dangerous amounts of lung-damaging silica dust, because engineered stone is mostly made of the mineral silica. Jose Martinez, 37, worked for years as a polisher and cutter for a countertop company that sold engineered stone, as well as natural stone like marble. He says dust from cutting the slabs to order was everywhere. "If you go to the bathroom, it's dust. When we go to take lunch, on the tables, it's dust," he says. "Your nose, your ears, your hair, all your body, your clothes — everything. When you walk out of the shop, you can see your steps on the floor, because of the dust." Now, he's often weak and dizzy and has pain in his chest. He can no longer play soccer or run around with his kids. Doctors have diagnosed silicosis, a lung disease that can be progressive and has no treatment except for lung transplant. Martinez is scared after hearing that two other workers from the same company, who were also in their 30s, died of silicosis last year. "When I go to sleep, I think about it every night — that if I'm going to die in three or four, five years?" he says, his voice breaking. "I have four kids, my wife. To be honest with you, every day I feel worse. Nothing is getting better." Engineered stone typically contains over 90% silica. Granite ... usually contains less than 45% silica. Marble usually contains less than 10%. Dr. Amy Heinzerling, CDC His experience is just one of those described in a new report on 18 cases of illness, including two deaths, among people who worked principally with engineered stone in California, Colorado, Texas and Washington. The workers were nearly all Hispanic, almost all were men, and most had "severe, progressive disease." "I am concerned that what we may be seeing here may just be the tip of the iceberg," says Dr. Amy Heinzerling, an epidemic intelligence service officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who is assigned to the California Department of Public Health. Engineered stone took off as a popular option for countertops about a decade ago and is now one of the most common choices for kitchens and bathrooms. From 2010 to 2018, imports of the material rose about 800%. Manufacturers say the material is preferable to natural stone because it's less likely to crack or stain. Companies make their engineered stone by embedding bits of quartz in a resin binder, and that means it's almost entirely composed of crystalline silica. "Engineered stone typically contains over 90% silica," says Heinzerling. "Granite, for instance, usually contains less than 45% silica. Marble usually contains less than 10%." While all this silica isn't a concern once the countertop is installed in a kitchen or bathroom, it is a potential problem for the businesses that cut slabs of this artificial stone to the right shape for customers. "Workers who cut with the stone can be exposed to much higher levels of silica," says Heinzerling, "and I think we're seeing more and more workers who are working with this material who are being put at risk." A spokesperson for a trade organization that represents major manufacturers of engineered stone, A.St.A. World-wide, sent NPR a written statement, noting that dust-related diseases can come from unsafe handling of many different materials and that "these risks are not specific to engineered stone." What's more, the statement goes on, engineered stone surfaces "are totally safe in their fabrication and installation if it is performed according to the recommended practices." Manufacturers, according to the trade group, have been working to educate fabricators about these practices. Still, Heinzerling believes that "the fact that all of our affected workers worked with engineered stone, as did many of the workers reported internationally, is really important." One recent study in Australia found that at least 12% of workers who cut stone countertops had silicosis. Those cases, and the new cases in the United States, have public health experts now wondering about the nearly 100,000 U. S. workers in this industry. We knew we'd see more cases. It's disappointing that OSHA hasn't done anything to stop these cases from occurring. These cases were predictable, and they were preventable. David Michaels, former head of OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, 2009-2017 Officials estimate that there are more than 8,000 stone fabrication businesses in the United States. Many are small-scale operations that might not understand the dangers of silica or how to control it. Clusters of silicosis cases, some requiring lung transplants, had already occurred among workers who cut engineered stone in Israel, Italy and Spain when doctors saw the first North American case in 2014. That was a 37-year-old Hispanic man who had worked at a countertop company and had been exposed to dust, including dust from engineered stone, for about a decade. More cases were then discovered in California when public health workers did a routine search of hospital discharge records for a diagnosis of silicosis. They identified a 38-year-old man who had died of silicosis in 2018 after working for a countertop manufacturer. When they investigated his former workplace, they learned of another worker who had died of silicosis in 2018 at age 36. Four other workers from that same company, including Martinez, have been diagnosed with silicosis. Not just miners anymore Meanwhile, in Colorado, an unusually high number of people with silicosis were showing up at the occupational health practice of Dr. Cecile Rose, professor of medicine at National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado. "Over a period of less than 18 months, I had seen seven cases of silicosis in younger workers," says Rose. In the past, her patients with silicosis tended to be miners, who had dug for metals such as gold and silver many years before. Her new patients were younger and were working with companies that processed slabs of engineered and natural stone. "We actually not only saw people who were directly cutting and grinding the stone, but we saw people who were just sweeping up the work site after the stone had been cut," says Rose. "They were exposed to the silica particles that were suspended in the air just with housekeeping duties." More cases have been found in Texas. And in 2018, public health workers identified a 38-year old Hispanic man with silicosis in Washington who fabricated countertops. "He is facing serious health issues and is being considered for a lung transplant," according to Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. Controlling the dust is key None of this surprises David Michaels, an epidemiologist at George Washington University who used to run the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a safety agency within the Department of Labor. In 2015, he says, OSHA issued a "hazard alert" warning of a significant exposure risk for workers who manufacture natural and artificial stone countertops. "We knew we'd see more cases," says Michaels. "It's disappointing that OSHA hasn't done anything to stop these cases from occurring. These cases were predictable, and they were preventable." Prevention basically comes down to controlling the dust. Stone cutting businesses can choose from a variety of proven methods ranging from working with stone while it's wet to using vacuum or filtration systems that remove dust from the air. In 2016, OSHA issued new workplace limits on how much silica could be in the air. This controversial new rule reduced the permissible exposure level to half of what it had been. Safety experts hailed the new, tighter limit as an important step forward; the previous regulations had been based on decades-old science, they said. But many industry groups opposed it. A year later, the incoming Trump administration ended the safety agency's national emphasis program for silica. That program would have allowed OSHA to target the countertop fabrication industry for special inspections, says Michaels. "That way OSHA can have an impact on the entire industry," says Michaels. "But OSHA is not doing that." Without that program, says Michaels, OSHA is limited in what it can legally do. OSHA can investigate a workplace injury or a complaint. But these workers, some of whom are undocumented immigrants with few employment options, are unlikely to complain. A spokesperson for OSHA tells NPR that the agency will determine "at a later date" whether a revised silica special emphasis program is needed; in the meantime, the agency "continues to enforce the 2016 silica standard." "Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace free from recognized hazards," the spokesperson says. Some countertop manufacturers are well aware of the dangers of silica. David Scott, the owner and operator of Slabworks of Montana, in Bozeman, estimates that about 40% to 50% of what he sells and cuts is the engineered stone. He has been able to dramatically reduce the amount of silica dust in his countertop fabrication shop over the past five years, he says. One of his insurers provided testing for airborne silica, and Scott says levels were initially only marginally acceptable, even though his facility doesn't do any dry processing of stone, which creates more dust. "We were a wet shop at that time, and we were still marginal," he says. Part of the problem was that water with silica dust would end up on the floor, he explains, and some of the water would evaporate before going down the drain. "If you came in in the morning, you would see a white residue on our floor, and that was the dust," says Scott. "So the first thing we did was bring in a floor scrubber. We call it our Zamboni." The machine scrubs and vacuums up the water, and Scott says that reduced the silica load in the air substantially. He then added new air handling systems to further remove dust. "We brought our silica levels, at times, down to undetectable," says Scott. He says consumers who want to make sure they're buying a countertop from a responsible vendor can vet fabricators by looking to see if they are accredited by the Natural Stone Institute, which trains companies on how to safely cut and polish stone. Accreditation requires companies to basically invite OSHA in to do an inspection. But many operators, especially smaller ones, won't have gone through this process. If a showroom is attached to a manufacturing shop, Scott says, a countertop buyer could simply look around. "How much dust do you see? Because it gets everywhere," says Scott. "General cleanliness is going to tell you a lot." Australia sees a spike in cases In Australia, where government officials are grappling with a spike in aggressive cases of silicosis among workers who cut engineered stone, medical organizations are urging doctors to screen young workers to identify those who have lung disease. Dr. Graeme Edwards, an occupational health physician in Brisbane, Queensland, says that currently there are more than 250 known cases of silicosis among people who manufacture countertops — or "benchtops," as they are called in Australia. Anyone who has worked with engineered stone for more than three years should have a high-resolution CT scan to check for lung injury, says Edwards, even if they don't have any symptoms. He says this is especially true if they engaged in any dry-cutting of this material for more than a year, regardless of whether they used respiratory protection. In an email, he says that American researchers' assertion in their new report that, based on Australia's experience, "there might be many more U. S. cases that have yet to be identified" is "a GROSS understatement." Jose Martinez, who is worried about his future, says he wants workers to know that the danger is real and that they have to protect themselves, because some companies may not care. "At the end, it's your family, it's your health. It's not about other people. It's not about if your boss likes it or not," says Martinez. "If you die, who is going to feed your kids? Who is going to take care of your family?" ksena32/iStock/GettyImages Brazilian pepper tree is the common name for the Schinus terebinthifolius tree, a native of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. Its incarnation in the United States is considered invasive in states such as California, Florida and Texas, with aggressive programs in place to eradicate it from natural ecosystems and disturbed habitats. Due to the presence of toxic compounds in the bark, Brazilian pepper tree wood should never be used for cooking. Similar to poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac, the leaves and bark of the Brazilian pepper tree contain urushiol, a toxic oil that causes serious rashes and allergic reactions. When the wood is burned for cooking or smoking foods, the toxic compounds become airborne and can cause severe reactions when they come into contact with eyes and skin. Inhaling the smoke can irritate and burn your throat, mouth and lungs, and contribute to respiratory illness. The smoke may settle into the fur of your pets and be absorbed into furniture, creating poisonous pockets in your environment. We all know the dangers of Asbestos found in old building and roofs, but did you know Asbestos can be found in natural materials too? Asbestos is actually a naturally occurring, fibrous mineral that can be found in some types of marble and other stone. Breathing in air containing asbestos fibres is associated with various health issues including cancers of the lungs and chest lining. When Asbestos is found in marble or other stone products, this is not necessarily an immediate risk to health as the Asbestos will be securely fixed in the stone. However, fibres could be released when the stone is worked e.g. drilled, cut, sanded etc or if it is damaged. It is important that those affected are aware of the possible risks and the precautions to take. The HSE recently published a new leaflet “AM1: Asbestos in some types of marble and other stone: assessing the risk” which explains the risks, how to identify whether asbestos is present and the precautions that should be taken. This can be downloaded from the HSE website at: Just because stone does not contain Asbestos or only contains it in trace levels, does not mean that it can be worked without taking precautions. Dust from working stone, in particular respirable crystalline silica, can still be harmful to health and it is important that suitable precautions e.g. dust suppression methods, are put in place to control the risks. Please speak to your normal PIB Risk Management contact or get in touch using if you have any questions about the control of substances hazardous to health in your workplace. Calcium carbonate [Marble], Natural calcium carbonate [Marble] [Note: Marble is a metamorphic form of calcium carbonate.] TWA 10 mg/m3 (total) TWA 5 mg/m3 (resp) TWA 15 mg/m3 (total) TWA 5 mg/m3 (resp) Incompatibilities & Reactivities Fluorine, magnesium, acids, alum, ammonium salts inhalation, skin and/or eye contact irritation eyes, skin, mucous membrane, upper respiratory system; cough, sneezing, rhinorrhea (discharge of thin nasal mucus); lacrimation (discharge of tears) Eyes, skin, respiratory system Personal Protection/Sanitation (See protection codes) Skin:No recommendation Eyes:No recommendation Wash skin:No recommendation Remove:No recommendation Change:No recommendation (See procedures) Eye:Irrigate immediately Skin:Soap wash Breathing:Fresh air Karin Dreyer/Blend Images/Getty Images The human papilloma virus causes warts to develop on different parts of the body. Broken skin is easily infected by the virus, therefore you should exercise caution when you have cuts and avoid contact with infected individuals. Warts under the nails are called subungual warts. They can be under the toenails or fingernails, and the location makes treatment more challenging than in the case of more easily accessible warts. Difficult-to-treat subungual warts can damage your nail bed and permanently distort your nail if left untreated. The wart can move your nail out of place, even causing it to detach from the nail bed completely if it gets big enough. While most warts are painless, subungual warts, because of their location and the pressure exerted on them, can cause a lot of pain. These are warts that cannot be ignored and must be treated. Different treatment methods have been suggested for removing subungual warts. The Acne-Psoriasis-Treatment.com website lists podophyllin, carbon dioxide laser treatment and electrocoagulation as effective treatment methods. The podophyllin wart paint consists of one part each of podophyllin, salicylic acid and acetone, and two parts collodion flexibleffincture benzoin. This chemical mix is painted on twice daily. X-ray, liquid nitrogen and ultrasonic therapy are also noted as producing good results. A 1992 study published in the "Australian Journal of Dermatology" looked at the effectiveness of carbon dioxide laser vaporization of subungual warts. Forty subjects were treated, some with warts that had resisted previous treatment with liquid nitrogen, or cryotherapy. A 10-month follow-up showed an overall subungual wart cure rate of 64.7 percent. Persistent warts that failed to respond to initial treatment had a 73.3 percent cure rate when subjected to further carbon dioxide vaporization. The researchers concluded that carbon dioxide vaporization is a viable treatment for subungual warts. The writers of the Health Care Advisor website caution that, if left untreated, subungual warts will increase in size and invade the skin. This will lead to infection in the finger or toe where the wart occurred. They further advise that parents pay special attention to children with these warts, since picking can lead to bleeding and inflammation. The website also attests that, although carbon dioxide vaporization is an effective cure for subungual warts, you may have a recurrence within three months. There is no absolute cure for either the virus or the warts they cause, so avoiding contraction of the virus is your best defense. Jupiterimages/Photos.com/Getty Images Eyeglasses, when worn regularly, are constantly exposed to germs, bacteria and viruses. Contagious illnesses such as conjunctivitis and other eye infections can spread if you touch your glasses with unwashed hands. In addition to removing general dirt and stains, cleaning and sterilizing your eyeglasses can help reduce the risk of catching or spreading germs. Use proper cleaning and sterilizing methods to sterilize your eyeglasses without damaging them. Hold your eyeglasses carefully under running water to wet the lenses. Place a drop of antibacterial soap on each side of both lenses. Put your index finger on one side of the lens and your thumb on the other, and rub the lens in a circular motion. Repeat with the other lens, followed by the frames. Rinse your eyeglasses with warm water. Dry the lenses and frames with a soft cloth. Dampen another cloth with rubbing alcohol. Wipe off the surface of the lenses and frames with the rubbing alcohol to sterilize the eyeglasses. Dry the glasses with a clean cloth. safety image by anna karwowska from Fotolia.com The purpose of a health and safety policy in a child care setting is to provide parents with a written statement of the procedures in place to protect their children. The policy protects child care providers, as well, by detailing the training and procedure standards that need to be followed on a daily basis. To ensure that parents and staff read and understand the policy, provide two copies and request that a signed copy be returned prior to attendance or employment. According to the California Child Care Health Program, the policy should call for hand-washing by staff and children at arrival, when moving from one child care group to another, after handling pets or bodily fluid and before and after eating or handling food. Children and staff also need to wash hands after toileting and diapering, administering medication, sand or water play, or handling garbage or uncooked food. The policy should include provisions for sanitizing counters and table surfaces, toys, bathrooms and diaper changing areas, as well as for weekly cleaning of all bed linens used by the children. The policy should identify criteria for the exclusion of ill children from the program. Symptoms requiring exclusion include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, discharge from the eye or others resulting from a known contagious illness. If any of these symptoms are the result of a non-contagious issue, documentation from the child's physician should be required. The policy also needs to provide for the exclusion of a child whose illness prevents him or her from participating in activities or prevents the caregiver from providing quality care to other children. The health and safety policy should include plans for emergencies. Detail the policy for transporting a child to a health care facility, including a statement that the parent will be notified as soon as it is practical. Include provisions for staff training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and for locating and using fire extinguishers. Detail procedures in the event of a fire or weather emergency, and call for a current listing of emergency numbers, including contact numbers for parents. A child care health and safety policy details provisions for the transporting of children, including the requirement that a signed permission form be on file for each child. The policy needs to address the mode of transportation, the credentials of the drivers, the car seat policy and the routine maintenance of the vehicle. To meet licensing and registration standards, each adult who comes into contact with children in any capacity in a child care facility must receive background and medical clearance, and adherence to this regulation should be addressed in the health and safety policy. The policy should clearly state the background and medical check process, indicating the type of records or history that would disqualify an adult from working or volunteering at the facility. Long appreciated for its beauty, durability, and elegance is natural stone-especially marble. From classic architecture to contemporary luxury houses, its ageless attractiveness is still unparalleled. But there are various false ideas about natural marble stone, which causes uncertainty among designers and customers. 1. Does Natural Marble Contain Harmful Radiation? One of the main worries is that natural marble stones may emit dangerous radiation capable of starting cancer. Natural stone is created from the crust of the earth; hence, like all natural materials, it has minute radioactive element content. This myth results from this fact. Studies have revealed, meanwhile, that most natural marble floor tiles have radiation levels similar to those of ordinary soil and do not endanger human health. This was explained by the 2013 China Natural Marble White Paper, which verified that the radiation levels in natural marble slabs fall quite below safe limits. Marble tiles have long been used extensively in homes, hotels, and public areas; there has never been any documented health danger connected with their use. White floor marble tiles for a sleek modern style or natural marble tiles with complex marble vein patterns are safe for both domestic and commercial projects. At HRST Stone, we give safety great thought. Our natural marble floor tiles and slabs satisfy international safety criteria, allowing you to appreciate their beauty free from concerns about health hazards. 2. Is Natural Stone Environmentally Friendly? Another prevalent fallacy is that using natural stone destroys the surroundings. Some people think that a healthy living environment cannot be one surrounded by genuine marble stone. Still, this is hardly accurate. Natural marble tile is a product of nature; it requires less processing than synthetic substitutes such as artificial stone. Particularly in cases of appropriate quarrying and manufacturing methods, natural marble slabs are taken out and handled with minimum effect on the surroundings. Conversely, certain imitation stone goods are created utilizing synthetic chemicals and resins that, over time, might cause negative effects. Low-quality imitation stone floor tiles, for example, could include formaldehyde or benzene, which can be dangerous if concentrated heavily over extended periods of time. In enclosed areas, such as a marble tile bathroom or marble tile shower, these compounds greatly worry me. Besides, real marble stone has inherent health advantages. For instance, its cooling qualities make it rather popular in wellness centers and luxury marble spas. Marble slabs are sometimes used in geothermal treatments meant for relaxation and healing in establishments like upscale spas. The material of choice for wellness environments is a luxury marble bathroom built with natural marble floor tiles, especially in lighter tones, since it can produce a serene and peaceful environment. 3. Is Artificial Stone Healthier Than Natural Marble? Artificial stone slabs are, some contend, better and greener substitutes for natural marble. This assertion is predicated on the idea that the composition of artificial materials is more under control and predictable. Still, this is not always the case. Formed over millions of years, natural marble slabs-such as Carrara marble or Calacatta marble-are free from the dangerous compounds sometimes present in some synthetic building materials. Although artificial stone slabs might look like marble, their manufacture frequently calls for the use of resins, glues, and other chemicals capable of off-gas volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In enclosed environments like luxury marble baths, where air circulation is limited, these pollutants especially worry me. Conversely, natural marble tiles present a totally natural, chemical-free choice. Perfect for settings where health is a top concern, including homes with children or dogs, they are hypoallergenic, robust, and easy to clean. For those seeking a green, healthy answer, HRST Stone advises natural marble tiles. Natural marble is a superior choice for establishing a healthy indoor atmosphere, whether it is for marble tile floors in a living room or marble tile showers in a bathroom. 4. Are Artificial Stone Tiles Cheaper Than Natural Marble? It is generally believed that fake stone tiles are the more reasonably priced choice when compared to natural stone. Although fake stone flooring is usually less expensive initially, natural marble has a long-term worth significantly higher than its synthetic equivalents. Here is a detailed analysis of why, over time, natural marble-despite its greater initial cost-can be the more affordable option. Longevity and Durability Natural marble's unmatched durability is one of the main factors explaining it to be a better long-term investment. When well cared for, a single natural marble slab can survive decades or even centuries. Marble's natural composition and structure define its enduring character and help it to resist major wear and tear. This lifetime stands in sharp contrast to artificial stone, which can be damaged, discolored, or worn and must thus be replaced or restored. Unique Aesthetic Value Natural marble is known for its original and classic beauty. Every slab of natural marble is different, with individual marble vein patterns and subtle color and texture variances. Every piece of marble is unique because of its natural variation, which makes every work of art. A 12x24 marble tile, for instance, can reveal complex marble vein patterns that, with time, improve its visual appeal. Conversely, artificial stone is produced to seem like natural stone but lacks the depth and uniqueness of real marble. Cost of Maintenance and Replacement Although imitation stone goods are first less expensive compared to actual marble, they sometimes need more regular upkeep and repair. Many synthetic stones have resins and fillers sensitive to chipping, cracking, or fading under high traffic or sunshine. As replacements or repairs become required over time, these problems can cause further expenses. On the other hand, if correctly sealed and maintained, natural marble is less prone to suffer from such issues, therefore saving long-term maintenance expenses. Labor and Resource Costs The work and resources required in extracting, cutting, and polishing natural marble slabs help to explain the price difference between natural marble and synthetic stone. Natural marble is the result of millions of years of geologically occurring events. The labor-intensive extraction method guarantees a premium final result by means of the craftsmanship needed to cut and polish every slab. Although this painstaking process increases the cost of real marble, it also ensures a product with distinctiveness and durability. Long-Term Value When examining the whole worth, natural marble usually shows to be more long-term affordable. Although the initial outlay for natural marble tiles may be more, its durability, aesthetic appeal, and reduced maintenance requirements usually offset any initial savings from imitation stone. Natural marble is a more affordable option over time since its ongoing beauty and strength mean it is not often needed as a replacement. Here at HRST Stone, we have a large selection of premium natural marble tiles that highlight beauty and robustness. Our natural marble floor tiles are made from the best materials, thereby guaranteeing that you get a product that not only meets but surpasses industry standards. Our knowledge of processing and exporting marble assures you of a product with remarkable lifetime and beauty. Selecting HRST Stone means making investments in peace of mind and quality, knowing that your marble flooring will improve your area for years to come. In essence, natural marble is a better choice even if fake stone tiles would initially seem to be a more reasonably priced alternative because of its longevity, special aesthetic value, and reduced maintenance expenses. Investing in natural marble tiles from HRST Stone is a dedication to everlasting beauty and excellence rather than only a purchase. 5. Why Do Prestigious Buildings Prefer Natural Marble? Since classic castles to contemporary skyscrapers, real marble has been a preferred building material since ancient times. Two outstanding examples of luxury marble installations with great grandeur and magnificence are the Burj Al Arab in Dubai and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. Natural marble floor tiles, which stand for both stability and elegance, are rather prominent in the design of the CCTV headquarters in China. Architects trying to produce upscale designs choose natural marble because of its unmatched beauty, unusual marble vein patterns, and vivid colors. A timeless quality of luxury marble makes fake stone floors inadequate. Whether it's in a luxury marble bathroom, a stately lobby, or a modern marble tile bathroom, the material lends an obvious feeling of elegance and sophistication. Being part of this legacy and offering premium natural marble floor tiles for significant architectural projects all over makes HRST Stone proud. Whether for big commercial projects or tiny homes, we provide a great range of marble slabs and marble tile patterns to enable designers to realize their ideas. 6. Why Do Some Designers Avoid Natural Marble? Though real marble is clearly appealing, some designers avoid including it in their works. Usually stemming from ignorance about natural stone and worries about cost, installation, and care, this uncertainty results from Working with natural marble tiles can be more difficult than with synthetic stone slabs; cutting, shaping, and installation call highly trained personnel. One other factor is the worry of harm during installation. Should a natural marble tile break or chip, replacing it can be costly and the designer might be held accountable. This is the reason some designers use less expensive, more forgiving materials like imitation stone flooring, which could have lower risk and better profit margins. Still, the advantages of using real marble much exceed the hazards. Artificial stone cannot equal its beauty, durability, and originality. At HRST Stone, we offer artificial and natural stone choices so that designers may select the ideal material for their project. Our warehouse and processing tools help us to manage big projects; our staff provides professional guidance to guarantee flawless installation and low risk of harm. 7. Why Are Natural Marble Artworks Expensive? Natural marble is a medium for art as well as a building component. Making a detailed marble floor pattern or carving a sculpture calls both great talent and accuracy. Though the raw material is precious, the workmanship turns a block of marble into a piece of art. Customizing a marble pattern tile or medallion calls for a mix of modern stone-cutting technologies with age-old crafts practices. To highlight the stone's inherent beauty, every piece has to be precisely chosen, cut, and polished. Natural marble artwork's higher cost results from this labor-intensive procedure as well as the individuality of every marble slab. From simple marble tile flooring to intricate luxury marble medallions, our specialty at HRST Stone is designing unique marble patterns. Whether it's a domestic house, a luxury hotel, or a public landmark, our team closely collaborates with customers to produce original works that accentuate the visual appeal of any area. A beautiful, long-standing, environmentally sustainable material, natural marble stone is made from stone. Though there are still false ideas about radiation, expense, and environmental impact, natural marble tiles really provide unmatched beauty, strength, and health advantages. Natural marble is still the best option for long-term value and visual appeal, whether your project calls for a custom marble tile shower, marble tile flooring in a living room, or a luxury marble bathroom design. Our first goal at HRST Stone is to offer the best natural marble and synthetic stone goods. Our crew has a lot of expertise exporting marble slabs and tiles globally; our warehouse and production facilities are ready for any scale of project. We have the knowledge and supplies to assist you in reaching your design objectives, whether your search is for artificial stone floor tiles, 12x24 marble tiles, or natural marble floor tiles. The danger to stoneworkers comes from activities such as cutting, drilling, grinding, carving and polishing; these produce a fine dust which contains RCS, fine particles which can be easily breathed in and which enter the lungs.Those who work with stone can experience serious disease and ill-health as a result of breathing in dust. Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) is found in stone dust and causes silicosis, cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).Crystalline Silica is one of the most abundant minerals on the earth; there are many types of different crystalline silica but the most common is quartz. Sandstone is almost pure silica at between 70-90%, granite is around 15-30% silica.The image below shows the maximum amount of silica dust someone should be breathing in a day after using the right controls, compared to the size of a UK penny.. The danger to stoneworkers comes from activities such as cutting, drilling, grinding, carving and polishing; these produce a fine dust which contains RCS, fine particles which can be easily breathed in and which enter the lungs. Silicosis is a very slow, progressive and irreversible disease that usually occurs many years after the initial exposure to the dust itself.Those stoneworkers who experience very high exposures over months or years can develop acute silicosis; this is rapidly progressive and often fatal. Each year since 2003 between 10 and 30 deaths have been recorded with silicosis identified as the underlying cause.There are three types of silicosis; Chronic Silicosis, Accelerated and Acute Silicosis (as previously mentioned). This is the most common form of silicosis and usually occurs after a long period of exposure; typically 15 to 20 years of low to moderate dust exposure to RCS as the silica dust causes lungs and the lymph nodes to swell.The symptoms of Chronic Silicosis may not be evident without a chest x-ray but as the disease progresses, those suffering will experience shortness of breath; later stages may lead to fatigue, extreme shortness of breath, chest pain and ultimately respiratory failure.After shorter periods of high exposure to silica dust, often 5 to 10 years. Symptoms of Accelerated Silicosis include severe shortness of breath, general weakness and weight loss and takes longer to become apparent than acute silicosis.After exposure to extremely high concentrations of silica, you can develop Acute Silicosis. This typically develops between months up to 2 years and causes progressive breathlessness, weakness and weight loss which often leads to death.Silicosis is an already serious condition but can also increase the risk of other serious conditions developing such as:Lung CancerTuberculosis and other Chest InfectionsChronic Obstructive Pulmonary DiseasePulmonary HypertensionKidney DiseasesHeart FailureArthritis Conditions will vary depending on the workshop that you’re working in and the amount of dust that you are being exposed to depends on a number of factors; these include:– The type of stone you are working with (both natural and engineered stone)– The type of tools you are using and whether it’s a powered or hand-held tool and whether there is built-in dust extraction– How long you have been working with the tool– How well you are using any extraction systems and ventilation– How effective your dust mask is– How the workshop is organised, including the separation of dusty activities and those which are cleanerIt’s important that those working with dust are well protected with correct ventilation as well as comprehensive, quality PPE to protect from stone dust. The HSE ‘Advice For Managers’ is to minimise the amount of RCS being breathed-in by reducing the amount of airborne dust in the working environment. Marble is a carbonate rock widely used in the construction industry, decoration, sculpture and works of art. However, the use of marble can affect the environment and health in several ways:Marble extraction processes require the use of many chemicals and energy, which can cause pollution of water, air and soil. This can lead to environmental degradation and impact on wildlife and other ecosystems.Marble can have a negative impact on overall health. For example, the processes of polishing and polishing marble can involve the release of fine marble dust, which contains many harmful heavy metals. Inhalation of this dust can lead to the development of bronchitis and upper respiratory tract infection. In addition, the exposure of workers in the marble industry to chemicals can lead to occupational diseases.3-impact on the climate:Marble is used in many other products in addition to construction, which require the use of energy in their production and transportation. This increases carbon emissions and contributes to climate change.The marble industry needs more research and development to improve its impact on the environment and health. The negative impact can be reduced by using alternative natural materials, environmentally friendly manufacturing materials, improving production processes and dealing with waste.About us we are Egyptian marble and granite suppliersWe are Egyptian marble and granite suppliers can offer different range of products and services by the size and location of our companiesOur services can includeexample polishing, cutting, engraving, Turning Stone into different sizes and shapes and other services. These services may be provided with high quality standards and competitive prices.Egyptian marble and granite suppliers can be found by searching online or contacting a variety of government and private entities working in this field.In the end, choosing an Egyptian marble and granite supplier with a good reputation and high experience in the Egyptian stone industry is vital to obtain high quality and reliability in products and we have thisWhat do we stand out forTransportation services are provided to transport raw materials from our factories as suppliers to ports by trucks and containers depending on the volume and quantity of materials to be transported.Storage services are also provided for the storage of raw materials in various warehouses and storage centers. These services are usually available in areas located near ports or airports to facilitate transfersPackaging: packaging services are provided for raw materials in order to protect them from damage during transportation and storage operations. Such services usually include the use of special packaging materials and material insurance.Insurance services are provided to protect raw materials from damage during transportation and storage operations.Our customers can get these services through our specialized logistics companies in this field. Customers should make sure to choose a reliable and highly experienced shipping and logistics company in this field to ensure the safety and quality of the materials to be shipped, so we provided the customer with our shipping companies for easy obtaining the desired product The quality of our products and customer safety guarantee. The company adheres to international standards of Quality Management, which are constantly updatedIt also adheres to environmental conservation standards, which are constantly updated We also adhere to occupational safety and health standards, which are constantly updatedThe products manufactured comply with the requirements of the European Union in terms of Health and safetyThis is a set of international standards that define the standard specifications for marble, granite and other natural stone Egypt Author:MoCo Marble Tiles-Stone Tile ManufacturerAlthough marble decoration is the material of choice for high-end decoration today, some people still have praise for the radiation problem of natural marble. Where does the radiation of natural marble come from? Where did the rumors spread that natural marble has radiation and is harmful to the human body, which is not conducive to home decoration? As early as 2008, the American Marble Association conducted an authoritative test on all imported and domestic marble and granite, and the test results showed that natural marble and granite are not harmful to human health. Subsequently, the China Stone Association published the "White Paper on Natural Marble in China" based on the statistics of China's natural stone, and it was sufficient for testing. The white paper clearly indicates that Chinese natural stone (marble, granite) is an environmentally friendly and healthy building material, and no test report is required for engineering decorative stone.Even an authoritative report can't stop the public, especially the competitors of natural marble. Both natural marble and granite are the mainstream decoration materials today. More and more decoration materials are replaced by marble and granite. Marble and granite have the advantages of good decoration effect, long service life, not only beautiful but also practical. It is a competitive teammate of many decoration materials.Many sellers of ceramic tiles will say that marble has radiation, and it is healthier to use ceramic tiles, but they do not know that the radiation of marble is lower than that of ceramic tiles. In order to expand the market, ceramic tiles have also released a marble tile. Selling tiles under the name of marble, but secretly saying that marble has radiation. Marble has radiation regardless of any substance, but whether the level of radiation is harmful to human health, according to the marble white paper report, the radiation of natural marble is lower than that of ceramic tiles and wooden tables.Recommend: Porcelain Tile Manufacturer Large Format Porcelain Tiles Tile Trim Profiles Porcelain Tiles Suppliers Ceramic Tiles Manufacturers wood look porcelain floor tiles Marble Look Tiles Jonathan Hill/iStock/Getty Images Marble is a metamorphic limestone that is widely used in the sculpturing of statues and the construction of buildings and monuments. It is commonly used in tiles, countertops and indoor flooring. Working with these materials generates marble dust, which can cause respiratory issues and irritation of the eyes and skin. Stone carving of a hard stone like marble requires the use of power tools such as saws, drills, grinders and sanders. Inhaling marble dust causes toxic effects on the respiratory system. Workers and residents living in areas adjacent to stone quarries are prone to a disease called silicosis, whereby inhaled marble dust damages the cells of the respiratory system. Symptoms include a chronic cough and shortness of breath. There is no specific treatment other than supportive treatment such as cough medicine, bronchodilators and oxygen. People with silicosis have a higher risk of developing tuberculosis. Wearing a protective respirator may decrease risk of inhaling marble dust. Grinding and polishing marble releases small particles of stone and dust into the air. Exposure to the eyes with airborne marble dust causes irritation because of the abrasiveness of the product. Recommended first-aid measures include flushing the eyes with water thoroughly for 15 minutes, gently lifting the eyelids and rinsing under the eyelids and avoid scrubbing or rubbing the eyes. Seek medical attention if irritation and discomfort persist. Wearing eye protection may decrease risk of eye irritation when working with marble. Marble dust is abrasive and causes irritation to the skin. Stonemasons who have long-term exposure to marble dust have a high risk of developing scleroderma. This is a rare and progressive disease that involves the hardening and tightening of the skin and connective tissue. It results from the overproduction and accumulation of collagen in the body tissues. Exposure to silica, which is a component found in marble dust, is one risk factor for developing scleroderma.