



This technical bulletin is intended to be read in conjunction with the Allura Installation Manual dated October 2025 and the Allura Fiber Cement Safety Data Sheet (SDS) dated February 2025. If a more current version of the Installation Manual, the SDS or this technical bulletin is available, this version is no longer applicable.

ABOUT THE STANDARD

Many common materials used on residential job sites such as concrete, pavers, brick, block, rock and stone products, granite counter tops, and drywall compound contain silica.

Allura is committed to health and safety in the workplace. As part of that commitment, we want to provide resources to our customers to inform them of the updated Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Silica Standard (General Industry 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1053 and Construction Industry § 1926.1153). Several common workplace operations that involve the cutting, sawing and drilling of silica-containing products are covered in the regulation.

OSHA established a Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica of $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a time-weighted average over an 8-hour period. The standard applies to all activities that generate silica dust.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For OSHA guidance on silica's background and health impacts, rule requirements, and compliance plans and assistance, visit [OSHA's crystalline silica safety and health topic](#).

For reports related to controlling silica exposures on job sites, including specific tasks such as grinding concrete and working with fiber-cement, visit the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\) Silica and Worker Health](#).

SAFE HARBOR PRACTICES

OSHA has compiled a list of practices known as "TABLE 1," which, when fully and properly implemented, are compliant with the OSHA PEL noted above. Under [CFR 1926.1153\(c\)iii](#) the safe harbor practices for cutting fiber-cement boards are:

- Tasks performed outdoors. Do not grind or cut fiber-cement indoors.
- Use a handheld power saw with a 8-inch (203.2mm) diameter or smaller blade equipped with a commercially-available dust collection system.
- Operate and maintain the saw in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to minimize dust.
- The dust collection system must have a filter with 99% or greater efficiency and provide air flow as recommended by the saw manufacturer or greater.

Additionally, Allura also recommends:

- Use saw blades specifically designed for cutting fiber-cement.
- Using a high efficiency disposable filter bag as a pre-filter in the dust collection system. This will prolong the life of the filter cartridge and reduce dust exposure when emptying the dust collection system.

This Technical Bulletin is provided for informational purposes and intended as a guideline and is not intended to be a warranty or promise as to product performance. Please refer to Allura's applicable written installation instructions and Limited Warranties for more information. Please comply with applicable building codes effective in the city, state, or town where the installation is occurring. In the event there are discrepancies between Allura's installation instruction and applicable building code, adhere to the requirement that is more stringent. Failure to do so may violate laws, affect product performance, result in personal injury, and may affect warranty coverage. Compliance with local building codes, regulations, and standards is the responsibility of the installer. Any information or assistance provided by Allura in relation to specific projects must be approved by the relevant specialists engaged for the project eg. builder, architect, or engineer.





ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY

OSHA recommends employers protect workers from silica using the same approach that is utilized for other workplace hazards:

- Assess the hazard
- Develop and implement a plan to protect against the hazard
- Train your employees
- Use the proper tools

The Center for Construction Research and Training has tools available to guide employers through these steps.

29 C.F.R. § 1910.1053 and Construction Industry § 1926.1153 provide additional options for protecting workers, which may include a combination of objective data, and air monitoring if engineering controls listed in “TABLE 1” are not implemented. Compliance with the OSHA standard is the responsibility of the employer.

Refer to the current product Safety Data Sheet before use. The hazards associated with fiber-cement arise from cutting, machining, drilling, routing, sawing, crushing, or otherwise abrading fiber-cement, and when cleaning up, disposing of, or moving the dust.

- Always maintain a clean work area
- Keep others away from activities that may generate dust, and warn them of the potential hazards
- If engineering controls are not available, wear a dust mask or respirator that meets NIOSH requirements (e.g. N-95)
- During clean-up, use a well maintained vacuum with appropriate filter
- Never dry sweep or use compressed air to blow-down

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional resources, including our most current installation instructions and code reports, please visit our website at www.allurausa.com. For technical services, email technical.services@elementia.com or call 844.4.ALLURA.

OSHA’s crystalline silica safety and health topic

- www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Silica and Worker Health

- www.cdc.gov/niosh/silica/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/default.html

CFR 1926.1153(c)iii

- www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-03-25/pdf/2016-04800.pdf

The Center for Construction Research and Training Tool

- plan.silica-safe.org

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