



SILICATM FREE NEWS

The Low-Silica & Zero-Silica Countertop Cheat Sheet

2026

MATERIAL	SILICA %	Q-RATING	CATEGORY	PRODUCTS
Quartzite	90–99%	–	Natural stone	Quarry-specific – no brand classification. Silica content varies by quarry origin.
Standard Engineered Quartz	85–93%	Baseline	Engineered quartz	Most major brands not in a Q-rated category. Verify silica content per product before specifying.
Q40 Engineered Quartz <i>Ceiling, not exact. Actual range ~10–35%.</i>	<40%	Q40	Engineered quartz	Caesarstone Mineral Series • Various others – always request the tested % before specifying a Q40 product
Granite	25–30%	–	Natural stone	Quarry-specific – no brand classification. Percentages are approximate; origin varies.
Marble	Varies	–	Natural stone	Quarry-specific – varies by origin. Lower than granite; not zero. Verify before specifying.
Q10 Engineered Quartz	<10%	Q10	Engineered quartz	Silestone XM (Cosentino Hybriq+) – first major brand to reach Q10; ~85%+ reduction from standard quartz
Sintered Stone	Near-zero	–	Sintered	Dekton (Cosentino) • Neolith – near-zero via sintering process, not reformulation. Different manufacturing category from engineered quartz.
Q-Zero Engineered Quartz	0%	Q-Zero	Engineered quartz	Caesarstone ICON™ (~80% recycled content incl. post-industrial glass) • BioQuartz® (Radical Surfaces, Garland TX – pyrolytic transformation, amorphous silica) • Aurea Stone ZERO • Revolux ZERO (~80% recycled glass, Nano-INK technology)
Solid Surface	0%	–	Solid surface	Corian® – acrylic resin + aluminum trihydrate. Zero crystalline silica since 1967. GREENGUARD Gold certified. NSF certified for food contact. Red List Free.
Recycled Glass	0%	–	Recycled glass	IceStone (100% recycled glass + Portland cement. Zero VOCs. LEED-eligible. Brooklyn, NY.) • Vetrazzo (handcrafted in Georgia – unique hand-positioned glass slabs. Both brands via IceStone LLC.)
Paper Composite	0%	–	Paper composite	PaperStone – 100% post-consumer recycled paper + PetroFree™ resin. NSF certified for direct food contact. Heat resistant to 350°F. Works with woodworking tools.
Stainless Steel	0%	–	Industrial metal	No silica – material grade determines quality. Lifetime durability with zero maintenance. Professional kitchen aesthetic. Approx. \$100–150/sq ft installed.
Soapstone	0%	–	Natural stone	Natural talc-based mineral – zero silica by geology. Non-porous, chemically inert. Minor scratches buff out with light sanding. Quarry-specific.

THE Q40 CAVEAT

Q40 is a ceiling, not a specific number. A product rated Q40 could contain 10–35% crystalline silica. Always request the tested percentage when specifying a Q40 product.

Q-RATINGS APPLY TO ENGINEERED QUARTZ ONLY

The Q-rating system does not apply to sintered stone, solid surface, natural stone, recycled glass, or paper composite. Natural stone percentages are approximate; quarry origin varies.

Disclaimer: Silica Free News is an independent publication covering silica-free and low-silica surface materials for distributors, architects, interior designers, and other industry professionals in the United States and Canada. Our content is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, regulatory, technical, engineering, health and safety, or professional specification advice.

Although we make reasonable efforts to provide accurate and current information, product specifications, compositions, certifications, availability, and regulatory requirements may change. Readers should verify all material information directly with the manufacturer and consult the applicable legal, regulatory, or governmental authority before specifying, purchasing, fabricating, or installing any product.

©2026 Silica Free News Network

silicafreenews.com