



COUNTER ATTACK: Trump Slaps Tariffs on Quartz Imports **Crushing American Manufacturers**

By TheNevadaGlobeStaff, August 3, 2026 6:00 am

President Donald Trump imposed new tariffs on surging imports of quartz surface products Friday, delivering four years of protection to American manufacturers battered by foreign competition.

The proclamation follows a United States International Trade Commission investigation that found quartz products were entering the country in such rapidly increasing quantities that they had become a substantial cause of “serious injury” to the domestic industry.

Trump’s response is a four-year tariff-rate quota beginning August 15.

During the first year, affected quartz imports falling within the annual quota will face a 25 percent tariff. Imports exceeding the quota will be hit with a 50 percent duty. The rates will gradually decline over the following three years as American manufacturers receive time to invest, expand and compete.

This is not a blanket trade war dressed up as an industrial policy. Canada, Mexico and numerous other trading partners were excluded after the commission determined their products did not meaningfully contribute to the injury suffered by American manufacturers. Developing countries with relatively small shares of the American market are also exempt.

Trump targeted the imports causing the damage and spared those that were not.

Quartz surface products are found across Nevada homes, hotels, casinos and businesses. They include countertops, backsplashes, vanity tops, bar tops, flooring, shower surrounds, fireplace surrounds and tiles.

In Las Vegas, quartz is practically part of the skyline. Every new hotel tower, housing development, apartment complex and casino renovation needs acres of finished surfaces. The workers fabricating and installing those products are part of the enormous construction economy responsible for constantly rebuilding the city.

But increasingly, the value higher up that supply chain has been captured overseas.

Foreign producers flooded the American market with slabs manufactured under dramatically different economic conditions. Domestic companies were expected to compete against subsidized factories, lower labor costs and exporters willing to slash prices until American production disappeared.

Washington's old answer was to shrug, call it free trade and tell another group of American workers to find new careers.

Trump's answer is considerably less polite: If foreign companies want access to the American market, they will no longer receive a free pass to destroy the Americans already supplying it.

The safeguards also close an important escape hatch. Quartz manufactured in one country remains covered even when it is cut, polished, finished or packaged in another. Foreign producers cannot evade the tariffs by sending a slab on a quick vacation through a third country and changing the label before it arrives at an American port.

The proclamation authorizes the United States Trade Representative to take additional action if companies attempt to circumvent the restrictions. Exempt countries could also lose their protection if their shipments suddenly surge.

That enforcement matters. Tariffs without anti-circumvention measures are merely sternly worded invitations to find another loophole.

The administration is also offering foreign trading partners a productive way out. The trade representative may negotiate agreements limiting exports to the United States, and those deals may include commitments to invest in American quartz production, including unfinished slab manufacturing.

The message is simple: Foreign companies can continue flooding America and pay the tariff, or they can bring their capital, factories and jobs to the United States.

For Nevada, the policy creates a familiar tension. Importers and contractors may warn that tariffs will raise material costs in the short term, particularly in a state where construction never seems to stop. Those concerns should not be casually dismissed.

But cheap countertops are not truly cheap when the hidden price is another American factory closing, another community losing skilled jobs and another industry becoming dependent on foreign suppliers.

America has spent decades learning that lesson the hard way. Steel, furniture, electronics, pharmaceuticals and critical minerals were allowed to drift overseas because imported products looked cheaper on a spreadsheet. The long-term bill arrived in the form of hollowed-out towns, fragile supply chains and an economy dangerously dependent on countries that do not share America's interests.

Quartz may not sound as strategically significant as semiconductors or rare-earth minerals. The underlying choice is exactly the same: Does the United States intend to remain a country that makes things, or merely a market where the rest of the world sells them?

The safeguard is deliberately temporary. The annual quota rises from approximately 13 million square meters in the first year to 15.7 million in the fourth, while the within-quota tariff falls from 25 to 19 percent. The duty on above-quota imports declines from 50 to 47 percent.

American manufacturers are receiving breathing room, not a permanent government hammock.

They will have four years to modernize equipment, increase production, regain customers and demonstrate that American industry can compete when foreign producers are no longer permitted to overwhelm the market without consequence.

That is the bargain Trump is offering across the economy: protection from predatory trade in exchange for investment, expansion and American jobs.

Nevada was built by workers who pulled value from the earth, shaped raw materials and constructed cities in the desert. They understand that an economy cannot survive forever by importing everything, installing it and pretending the manufacturing jobs never mattered.

The countertops may be polished. Trump's message to the foreign producers crushing American factories is considerably rougher: The era of using the United States as the world's dumping ground is over.