



NATURAL STONE CHARACTERISTICS

In this section, “characteristics of natural stone”, we provide to you a basic understanding of natural stone.

POROSITY

While there are many variables between different types of stone, there are some common characteristics. The most important common fact is that ALL stone is porous. Sedimentary is more porous than metamorphic, which, in turn is more porous than igneous; but all are porous to some degree.

COLOR VARIATION

The very essence of natural stone offers a realistic feeling and proximity to nature. Natural stone gives the classic look and beauty of endless variation. Each stone is unique in its own way. The variation of grain structure and veining formations differ from stone to stone. Granites mostly show very little variation in color, but may show variations in pattern and grain density. On the other hand, marble shows wide variations in color and veining formations. Likewise, travertine is fairly consistent in colors with hints of graining individuality. One must embrace and understand the concept of variation, since no two pieces are exactly alike.

Listed below are the most common finishes found in natural stone

FINISHES

Polished

High glossy surface acquired through the use of diamond abrasive technology. Diamond abrasive technology over the past 20 years has dramatically increased the ease of polishing stone and facilitated higher standards of quality finishes.

Honed

Smooth, matte finish obtained with the use of diamond abrasive technology. This finish in natural stone is generally considered to be a 600 grit scratch pattern on the abrasive scale. It does possess angular reflectivity and is best for low maintenance and heavy traffic applications.

Natural Cleft

A finish unique to slates that has an uneven surface, yet is usable for flooring. This finish is created in the quarrying process through splitting or breaking the stone along its layers. One face (the backside) is generally gauged smooth with the use of diamond abrasive technology to facilitate leveled flooring.

Tumbled

An old world, weathered look given to tile by tumbling in a drum with a solution of water, sand and mild acid. Pieces of stone in a ¾” thickness are usually tumbled and then sliced down the middle, producing two pieces. Larger size tiles are given a “tumbled” finish manually. Tumbled material is not designed to be measured in exact dimensions, but offered in rustic nominal sizes within acceptable limits.

Brushed

A finish that is achieved through the use of steel brushes under the polishing wheels, achieving a slightly textured surface similar to the look of leather.

Split-Face

This finish is an uneven surface mainly achieved through man-made splitting technique. Its look resembles the natural cleft finish and is mainly used for wall cladding.

Edge Finishes or Profiles

There are various edge like, chiseled (chipped), pillowed, bullnosed, beveled, chamfered, etc.

AFFORDABILITY

Natural stone offers an elegant, luxurious appearance and has recently shed the image of being affordable to only the elite and is emerging as an affordable finish to the average customer.