



Designation: **C1528/C1528M – 18** **C1528/C1528M – 20**

Standard Guide for Selection of Dimension Stone¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1528/C1528M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

Natural stone, while being perhaps the oldest building material known to man, can also be one of the most difficult of all building materials to properly evaluate, select, and specify. Every natural stone product is unique, having its own physical properties and performance capabilities. Responsible stone selection involves extensive and objective evaluation of both the stone material and the application in which it is required to perform.

This guide presents a cursory review of the different stone types commonly used in construction, common applications, available finishes, and factors affecting product costs. It is intended to be used in combination with good judgment, responsible engineering analysis, local building codes, and any other available resources. It is not a “how-to” or a “step-by-step” guide, and has been prepared with the assumption that the user has some familiarity in the use of natural stone prior to utilizing this guide.

Past performance is the best test of a dimension stone’s durability. Yet because the physical properties of a natural stone can vary within a single deposit, even stones with a history of satisfactory performance may need to be tested to ascertain the quality of the current production stock. Common physical property tests include absorption, density, compressive strength, modulus of rupture, flexural strength, abrasion resistance, and anchor strength. Additional tests may also be required depending on the material and application.

In a high proportion of the cases, failure of a natural stone in service is a result of improper application, rather than the inherent properties of the stone. Placing stones in unsuitable environments, faulty fabrication, installation, or construction practices, and incompatible associated materials are frequent causes of stone system failures (for example, high-porosity stones in subgrade applications, inadequate anchorage or expansion space, mortars leaching alkalis, inappropriate strength mortars, staining grouts, voids in setting beds, and pavement stones with inadequate resistance to abrasion).

In selection of natural dimension stone products, the application as well as the aesthetic appeal must be considered. While aesthetics are important to the design, the selection of the proper stone material, thickness, anchorage, and related components is necessary to ensure meeting the performance and durability requirements of the design.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide is intended to be used by architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors, and material suppliers who design, select, specify, install, purchase, fabricate, or supply natural stone products for construction applications.

1.2 *Consensus Standard*—This guide is an industry consensus standard drafted in a cooperative effort among engineers, architects, geologists, producers, and installers of natural stone.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C18 on Dimension Stone and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C18.08 on Selection of Dimension Stone.

Current edition approved March 15, 2018; April 1, 2020. Published April 2018; May 2020. Originally approved in 2002. Last previous edition approved in 2017 as C1528–17a–18. DOI: 10.1520/C1528–C1528M–18; 10.1520/C1528–C1528M–20.

1.4 This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

C97 Test Methods for Absorption and Bulk Specific Gravity of Dimension Stone

C99 Test Method for Modulus of Rupture of Dimension Stone

C119 Terminology Relating to Dimension Stone

C120 Test Methods for Flexure Testing of Structural and Roofing Slate

C121/C121M Test Method for Water Absorption of Slate

C170 Test Method for Compressive Strength of Dimension Stone

C217 Test Method for Weather Resistance of Slate

C241 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Stone Subjected to Foot Traffic

C295 Guide for Petrographic Examination of Aggregates for Concrete

C406 Specification for Roofing Slate

C503 Specification for Marble Dimension Stone

C568 Specification for Limestone Dimension Stone

C615 Specification for Granite Dimension Stone

C616 Specification for Quartz-Based Dimension Stone

C629 Specification for Slate Dimension Stone

C880 Test Method for Flexural Strength of Dimension Stone

C856 Practice for Petrographic Examination of Hardened Concrete

C1201 Test Method for Structural Performance of Exterior Dimension Stone Cladding Systems by Uniform Static Air Pressure Difference

C1242 Guide for Selection, Design, and Installation of Dimension Stone Attachment Systems

C1352 Test Method for Flexural Modulus of Elasticity of Dimension Stone

C1353 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Dimension Stone Subjected to Foot Traffic Using a Rotary Platform Abraser

C1354 Test Method for Strength of Individual Stone Anchorages in Dimension Stone

C1526 Specification for Serpentine Dimension Stone

C1527 Specification for Travertine Dimension Stone

C1721 Guide for Petrographic Examination of Dimension Stone

D2203 Test Method for Staining from Sealants

2.2 Provisions of dimension stone handbooks, manuals, and specifications should be reviewed for compatibility with the principles outlined in this guide.

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this guide, refer to Terminology C119.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 *Related Components*—Natural stone is only one component of a building's construction. All related materials and assemblies need to be evaluated to ensure compatible interactive behavior with the stone product.

4.2 *Applicable Codes*—Every stone application shall comply with applicable building codes.

EXTERIOR APPLICATIONS OF DIMENSION STONE

5. Introduction

5.1 Natural stones have long been used and admired for their beauty and permanence. As a natural material, each piece of stone has features and physical characteristics that make it unique. The rich variation in color and texture, as well as its ability to age gracefully in the exterior environment, have made stone one of the most popular materials for construction, sculpture, and monuments.

5.2 Varieties of stone possess certain properties making it suitable for a specific application. Stone geology (mineral content and structure), compressive strength, flexural strength, resistance to absorption and erosion, as well as its ability to be worked, vary widely by stone type. These are all key characteristics that dictate the best use of the material and must be considered during the process of stone selection.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.



6. Exterior Applications

6.1 There are several major categories of exterior applications for stone; each of these is introduced below.

7. Load-Bearing Masonry

7.1 Load-bearing masonry is perhaps the oldest form of stone construction. Its defining feature is the transferring of structural load vertically by relying on the compressive strength of the stone to support itself and other imposed loads. Due to the weight of the stone itself, structures built in this manner tend to be of limited height. As the height of the structure increases, the wall thickness at the structure's base must increase, thus requiring large individual stones, or multiple wythes of stone. The costs of such walls are typically higher than other systems, due to the large amount of stone and labor involved.

8. Cladding

8.1 In response to the limitations and expense of load-bearing masonry, stone cladding systems were developed. Cladding systems can offer the appearance of load-bearing masonry but without the mass and expense. Cladding systems also offer a wide variety of applications, allowing greater architectural innovation.

8.2 When stone is used as cladding, it is exposed to unique loading characteristics that can require complex structural analysis and detailing in order to be used successfully. Materials other than stone are also often integrated into cladding systems, requiring consideration of their material properties as well as compatibility with the stone components.

9. Building Trim

9.1 Stone has been and continues to be used in architecture to accent other building materials, or to perform a specific purpose. Stone is often integrated into wall systems as decorative belt courses, window sills, lintels, arches, or water tables. Stone can add an element of interest to buildings, in addition to performing as a durable wall component with a specific and well-defined purpose.

10. Pavements

10.1 From cobblestone streets to modern plazas, stone is used to carry vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Modern systems include those bearing on pedestals and traditional sand or cement-based setting bed systems.

10.2 Materials used for steps must have a high resistance to abrasion and provide a surface with adequate slip resistance for public safety. Many varieties of dimension stones, with appropriate finish, will satisfy both of these requirements.

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11.2 Steps are manufactured from dimension stones as "cubic," in which the tread and riser faces are of one piece of stone, and also "veneered" in which multiple pieces of thin stone material are placed over a concrete or steel frame to form the tread and riser surfaces.

12. Coping

12.1 Wall systems that are fully exposed to the environment, such as roof parapet walls, balcony and terrace enclosure walls, and planter walls, are particularly susceptible to water penetration. Stone coping and wall caps are often used to help protect the underlying wall system from excessive moisture penetration and associated distress.

12.2 Copings and wall caps can also add a visual accent to the wall system, improving the appearance of the wall system by defining changes in the wall configuration.

12.3 Stone copings and wall caps are typically jointed, therefore, protection of the wall system is also reliant on proper treatment of the joints.

13. Roofing

13.1 Roofing applications for natural stone are typically limited to slate, a variety of stone that can be quarried and fabricated into thin, shingle-shaped elements. Dense, nonporous stones can provide a durable, water-resistant roof system that effectively utilizes the unique physical characteristics of the material.

14. Ornamental, Sculpture, and Monumental Elements

14.1 Many varieties of stone possess characteristics that make them a desirable material for sculpting and carving. Most stone varieties can be worked by hand or power tools into unique shapes and representations, including engravings and reliefs. Properly selected stones can demonstrate resistance to environmental effects, thereby providing a sense of permanence to monuments and decorative sculpted items.

INTERIOR APPLICATIONS OF DIMENSION STONE

15. Interior Applications

15.1 Stone is often used at the interior of buildings due to its exceptional durability, beauty, and classical appearance. Due to the lack of environmental exposure, these applications are usually more forgiving of the material and allow for a broader range of stone varieties to be used. The major categories of interior use are discussed briefly below.

16. Flooring

16.1 Stone floors are typically highly durable, low maintenance, and aesthetically pleasing. When using stone as flooring, one must make sure that the finish is appropriate for its intended use; stone used for flooring should be abrasion resistant and have a finish that is not slippery to foot traffic when wet.

16.2 Joint conditions in floor installations are also critical; while interior flooring is not subject to the same temperature fluctuations as exterior installations, the joint system should include expansion joints that will accommodate cyclic variations in the stone dimensions over time, particularly if there is a substantial heat load from sunlight exposure or below floor-heating elements.

16.3 Stone flooring and the joint materials should also be relatively impervious to moisture; it is not unusual for interior floors to be cleaned with water and detergents on a daily basis. Excessive moisture in the flooring system can lead to discoloration of the joint materials and the stone, particularly if the stone flooring material is absorptive. Moisture can become trapped below highly polished finishes and appear as a stain. Some stone types used as flooring may need to be treated at the edges and bottom surface as well as the top surface to limit absorption-related concerns. However, component compatibility should be researched or tested prior to treating these surfaces to inhibit bond performance between the stone, adhesive, and grout. Only cleaning procedures and products (including waxes and cleaning agents) that are approved for use by the stone supplier should be used. Unapproved methods may stain or damage the stone or damage the stone finish.

17. Stairs

17.1 The use of stone for stair treads and risers leads to an attractive, durable, and low maintenance way to address interior elevation changes. Stone selected for stairs should be able to withstand constant foot traffic with minimal surface abrasion, erosion or damage. It should also be naturally slip-resistant due to the stone type or the finish selected.

18. Cladding

18.1 Stone used as interior wall cladding should be designed and installed in a similar manner to exterior wall cladding; however, loading considerations are different with an interior application. When considering stone anchorage options for an interior application, one should include (at a minimum) a nominal differential pressure on interior stone resulting from variations in building pressurization due to mechanical system performance and air loss through the building enclosure; however, it is likely that seismic requirements will control an interior application when compared to the comparatively low lateral loads generated from building pressurization.

19. Ornament and Sculpture

19.1 Stone used as decorative elements in an interior application have the distinct advantage of not being exposed to environmental forces such as temperature fluctuations, wind, water, and atmospheric pollutants. Therefore, the variety of stone suitable for interior applications can include many stone types that would otherwise not be appropriate due to their reduced resistance to environmental forces.

20. Wet Areas

20.1 Stone panels and tiles are commonly used for shower stall linings, urinal screens, and toilet partitions. Proper attention to water flow, waterproofing, corrosion resistance of attachment hardware, and base material is as critical in these applications as it would be in an exterior application.

21. Furnishings

21.1 Stone is widely used for countertops in kitchens, wet bars, and bathrooms. Normally, stone with lower absorption properties are recommended, though virtually any stone can be used if properly treated with impregnating repellents for exposure to moisture. Such repellents may alter the color or gloss levels of the stone surface, and typically have a reapplication interval specified by the manufacturer. While repellents will offer some degree of protection against moisture and staining, they will not protect acid sensitive stones against etching due to acid exposure.

21.2 Stone can also be used for table tops and table supports. Flexural strength is critical in these applications, along with consideration of the additional load to the floor structure from stone furniture when compared to other materials commonly used.



COMMON DIMENSION STONE TYPES

22. General

22.1 By strict geological definitions, hundreds of rock types are used as dimension stones. The commercial definitions of these rock types are much broader, allowing materials with similar performance and behavioral characteristics to be grouped together. Therefore, stones of different scientific geological definitions will be included in the same commercially-defined group. Using these broad commercial definitions, most materials used as dimension stone will fall under one of seven classifications: Granite, Marble, Limestone, Quartz-Based, Slate, Serpentine, or Travertine.

22.2 The finish applied to a stone may have more bearing on its suitability for use than the type of stone. While polished or honed surfaces are often used for cladding materials, these finishes are not recommended for walking surfaces because they do not demonstrate the frictional properties necessary for safe pedestrian ambulation. Refer to Section 43 for more detailed discussions of finish types.

22.3 Most dimension stones are known by an industry trade name. In many cases, a particular stone will be given different trade names by different fabricators or brokers. Therefore, the trade name alone may not be adequate to identify the selected material. Including the origin (quarry location) and quarry owner in the specification will help minimize confusion in material identification.

22.4 For major projects, sufficient inventory of block material is rarely available at any one fabricator's facility. Supply of raw block material from the quarry to the fabricator will usually occur concurrently with fabrication throughout the duration of the project. The production capacity of the quarry, in addition to any transportation difficulties must be carefully evaluated to ensure uninterrupted delivery of material throughout the project's construction.

22.5 Quarries of all dimension stone types will have unique capabilities and limitations. Natural fissures and fracture planes in the quarry will limit available piece size and yield. The supplier of the material must be consulted during the design phase of the project to ensure that the project requirements can be satisfied by the specified material. Specific grades (for example, select, monumental, structural, architectural, quarry-run, clear, variegated) may be identified in the material to further define the color range or clarity of the stock quality.

22.6 Fabricators of natural stone products use a variety of machinery from worldwide sources. The stone products themselves exhibit vastly different strength and workability properties, as well as widely varying availability of raw stock sizes and qualities. As a result of these variables in product and machinery, there is less standardization of stone product offerings and sizes than are typically found in the supply of other construction components. The thicknesses of the stone slabs will generally adhere to standard offerings, and detailing materials to correspond with recognized industry standard slab thicknesses will benefit the project in both economy and delivery. Table 1 lists common slab thickness found in the dimension stone industry, with a brief description of the applications in which they are typically employed.

SPECIFIC DIMENSION STONE TYPES

23. Granite

23.1 Commercially, "granite" includes any visibly granular, igneous rock consisting mostly of feldspars and quartz, and accompanied by one or more dark minerals. Typically, feldspar is the most abundant mineral found in granites and, because of this, the color of the granite is largely governed by the color of this mineral. The color can be modified by quartz, hornblende, mica, or any other mineral in significant quantity. Granites are available in a wide array of colors including pink, gray, white, red, black, brown, buff, green, and blue. Dark granular igneous rocks, classified petrographically as gabbro, anorthosite, basalt, or diabase, are also included in the granite group and often referred to as "black granites".

23.2 The majority of materials in the granite group are granular or crystalline in appearance, with the grain size varying between 2 or 3 mm [$\frac{1}{16}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$ in.] up to 25 mm [1 in.] or larger. Some of the materials included in the granite group will show a layering, or plate-like structure, due to recrystallization, folding, or other changes while the rock was in a plastic or semi-molten state. Such metamorphic rocks are called granite gneisses.

23.3 Granites with uniform mineral distribution will show remarkable homogeneity within the quarry and will have minimal variation of color, texture, or veining pattern from block to block. Other granites will display considerable color variation between blocks, or even within one block.

23.4 Some granites are nearly isotropic, meaning that they have similar appearance and performance characteristics regardless of the direction the material is cut. More commonly, a granite will demonstrate some degree of anisotropic behavior, ranging from mild to pronounced. Such granites frequently require sawing in a specific direction in which to obtain the required visual and performance properties.

23.5 Granite materials are used in a variety of architectural, memorial, and industrial dimension stone applications. ~~A list of common applications follows:~~ Memorial applications include monuments, markers, and mausoleums. Industrial applications include pickling tanks, surface plate, precision machine bases, and paper press rolls.

Architectural:



TABLE 1 Common Thickness and Application Chart

Thickness	Granite	Marble	Limestone	Quartz-Based	Slate	Serpentine	Travertine
5 mm [$\frac{3}{16}$ in.]	Not offered, except as veneers with a reinforced backer	Not offered, except as veneers with a reinforced backer	Not offered, except as veneers with a reinforced backer	Not offered, except as veneers with a reinforced backer	Used as roofing slate but only limited sources and quantities.	Not offered, except as veneers with a reinforced backer	Not offered, except as veneers with a reinforced backer
10 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ in.] —13 mm [$\frac{1}{2}$ in.]	“Thin-set” tiles for interior use only	“Thin-set” tiles for interior use only	“Thin-set” tiles for interior use only	“Thin-set” tiles for interior use only	6–10 mm [$\frac{1}{4}$ in.– $\frac{1}{2}$ in.] standard thickness for roofing slate and “thin-set” tiles for interior use only. Also commonly used for blackboards and countertop inserts. 13 mm [$\frac{1}{2}$ in.] & 15 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.] materials are also used as flooring, baseboard, thresholds, and furniture applications.	“Thin-set” tiles for interior use only	“Thin-set” tiles for interior use only
Tile ^A	10-13 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in.]	10-13 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in.]	10-13 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in.]	10-13 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in.]	6-10 mm [$\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$ in.]	10-13 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in.]	10-13 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in.]
20 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.]	Interior flooring, interior walls, countertops	Interior flooring, interior walls, countertops	Interior flooring, interior walls, countertops	Interior flooring, interior walls	10–25 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ in.–1 in.] used as specialty thickness for roofing slate. Also, interior flooring, baseboard, window stools, hearths, interior wall veneer, and countertops.	Interior flooring, interior walls, countertops	Interior flooring, interior walls, countertops
25 mm [1 in.]	Not generally used	Not generally used	Not generally used	Not generally used	Common thickness for flooring, window stools/sills, treads & risers, wall caps, hearths & mantels, countertops, and sanitary partitions	Not generally used	Not generally used
Roofing	NA ^B	NA	NA	NA	6-10 mm [$\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$ in.]	NA	NA
30 mm [1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.]	Interior Walls and Countertops. Considered the minimum thickness for exterior applications, horizontal or vertical, although design loads may require thicker material.	Interior Walls and Countertops. Considered the minimum thickness for exterior applications, horizontal or vertical, although design loads may require thicker material.	Used in interior flooring applications or limited vertical application in higher density limestones, countertops	Generally the minimum thickness available for interior flooring or exterior pavement	Interior Walls and Countertops. Considered the minimum thickness for exterior applications, horizontal or vertical, although design loads may require thicker material.	Interior Walls and Countertops. Considered the minimum thickness for exterior applications, horizontal or vertical, although design loads may require thicker material.	Interior Walls and Countertops. Considered the minimum thickness for exterior applications, horizontal or vertical, although design loads may require thicker material.
40 mm [1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.]	Used in exterior cladding applications when design loads marginally exceed capacity of 30 mm [1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.]	Used in exterior walls & pavements	Commonly used thickness for interior flooring & wall veneer in high-density limestone	Not commonly used	Exterior cladding	Used in exterior walls & pavements	Used in exterior walls & pavements
Interior Flooring	20 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.]	20 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.]	20 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.]	30 mm [1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.]	10-25 mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ –1 in.]	20 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.]	20 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.]



TABLE 1 Continued

Thickness	Applications	Granite	Marble	Limestone	Quartz-Based	Slate	Serpentine	Travertine
50 mm [2 in.]	Used in exterior cladding applications when necessitated by design loads, spans, or flexural strengths. Also used when reveals are machined into stone face.	Commonly used in exterior walls or pavement	Generally the minimum thickness used for any application of low or medium density limestone. Also the minimum thickness for exterior applications of high density limestone.	Used in flooring & pavement applications. Used in limited cladding applications with small panel sizes and modest design loads.	Slate slabs are generally available in several increments in this range— Thickness of 40, 45, 50, 60, 65, & 70 mm [1½ in., 1¾ in., 2 in., 2¼ in., 2½ in., & 2¾ in.] can be obtained from most fabricators. These thickness are used for exterior cladding, treads, & coping.	Commonly used in exterior walls or pavement	Commonly used in exterior walls or pavement	
80 mm [3 in.]	Used in exterior cladding when extremely large piece sizes are used, or when deep reveals are cut into stone face. Also used in exterior pavement subjected to passenger vehicle traffic. Commonly used in exterior window sill applications.	Thickness greater than 50 mm [2 in.] in Marble are referred to as "cubic" material. These thicknesses are generally applied in monument, sculpture, or decorative work, and are not normally offered as a "standard" thickness.	Common thickness for exterior cladding applications, although design loads, spans, or material strengths may dictate thicker panels. Also commonly used in coping & sill applications.	Common exterior cladding thickness	Used for copings, and also for cemetery markers	Thickness greater than 50 mm [2 in.] in Serpentine are referred to as "cubic" material. These thicknesses are generally applied in monument, sculpture, or decorative work, and are not normally offered as a "standard" thickness.	Thickness greater than 50 mm [2 in.] in Travertine are referred to as "cubic" material. These thicknesses are generally applied in monument, sculpture, or decorative work, and are not normally offered as a "standard" thickness.	
Interior Cladding	20 mm [¾ in.]	20 mm [¾ in.]	20 mm [¾ in.]	30 mm [1¼ in.]	25 mm [1 in.]	20 mm [¾ in.]	20 mm [¾ in.]	
100 mm [4 in.]	Used in Landscape or Sitework applications such as copings & fountains		Common thickness for exterior cladding applications. Also used for coping, sills, decorative reveals, belt course, banding, window surrounds, base, and soffit.	Used as coping, water tables, and belt courses— often will be supplied as 125 mm [5 in.]	Cubic material is available from slate producers, although not frequently used			
Countertops	20-30 mm [¾-1¼ in.]	20-30 mm [¾-1¼ in.]	20-30 mm [¾-1¼ in.]	20-30 mm [¾-1¼ in.]	20-30 mm [¾-1¼ in.]	20-30 mm [¾-1¼ in.]	20-30 mm [¾-1¼ in.]	
150 mm [6 in.]	Used in Landscape or Sitework applications such as curbs, copings, steps, & fountains		Commonly used for decorative or ornamental elements such as window surrounds, coping, cornice, belt course, banding, base, and water table units. Also found in classical architectural detailing, including columns, pilasters, architraves, and balustrades.	Used as coping, water tables, belt courses, steps, & curbs				
Exterior Cladding ^C	30-80 mm [1¼-3 in.]	30-80 mm [1¼-3 in.]	50-80 mm [2-3 in.]	30-80 mm [1¼-3 in.]	30-80 mm [1¼-3 in.]	30-80 mm [1¼-3 in.]	30-80 mm [1¼-3 in.]	



TABLE 1 Continued

Thickness	Applications	Granite	Marble	Limestone	Quartz-Based	Slate	Serpentine	Travertine
200-mm [8 in.]	Used in Landscape or Sitework applications such as curbs, copings, steps, & fountains			Referred to as "Cubic" material, these thicknesses are available on a job-specific basis for ornamental, landscape, and rustic applications				
Exterior Paving (pedestrian)		30-50 mm [1¼-2 in.]	30-50 mm [1¼-2 in.]	30-50 mm [1¼-2 in.]	30-50 mm [1¼-2 in.]	30-50 mm [1¼-2 in.]	30-50 mm [1¼-2 in.]	30-50 mm [1¼-2 in.]
Exterior Paving (vehicular)		80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]
Window sills		80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]
Copings		100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	80 mm [3 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]
Curbs		100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	NA	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]
Steps		100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	NA	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]	100-200 mm [4-8 in.]
Greater than 200-mm [8 in.]	These thicknesses are not considered "standards", but are available on a project-specific basis for sculpture, ornamental or monumental type applications							
Monuments/ Cubic ^D		> 200 mm [8 in.]	> 200 mm [8 in.]	> 200 mm [8 in.]	> 200 mm [8 in.]	NA	> 200 mm [8 in.]	> 200 mm [8 in.]

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^A For interior use with "thin-set" adhesives.

^B Not applicable or generally not used.

^C 30 mm is generally considered the minimum thickness for exterior application without a structural backing. Design loads may require thicker material or when stone contains deep reveals, generally produced at thickness increments of 10 mm.

^D For units that are highly articulated, or other applications as necessary based on design loads or spans.

- Exterior cladding/curtainwall
- Interior cladding
- Exterior paving
- Interior flooring
- Furniture & countertops
- Curbs
- Steps
- Retaining walls
- Coping
- Window sills/stools
- Memorial:**
- Monuments/Markers
- Mausoleums
- Industrial:**
- Picking tanks
- Surface plates/Precision machine bases
- Paper press rolls



23.6 The physical properties ~~Nominal thicknesses of granite are determined in accordance~~ offered by fabricators are as follows:

10 mm [3/8 in.]	Tile for interior use only with "thin-set" adhesives or as part of a panelized system with structural backing.
20 mm [3/4 in.]	Interior cladding, interior flooring, furniture, and countertops. Occasionally used as exterior cladding on mausoleums when panel sizes are sufficiently small to resist design loads.
30 mm [1 1/4 in.]	Generally considered the minimum thickness for exterior cladding without a structural backing. Design loads may require thicker material.
40-50 mm	Exterior cladding when design loads marginally exceed the capacity of material supplied at 30 mm [1 1/4 in.] or when reveals are machined into the face of the panel.
[1 5/8-3 in.]	Exterior cladding when extremely large panels are required or when deep reveals are cut into the face of the panel. Also, exterior window sills, copings, and exterior paving units subject to vehicle traffic.
80 mm [3 in.]	Landscape or site work applications such as curbs, steps, copings, and fountains.
100-200 mm	
[4-8 in.]	
>200 mm [8 in.]	Sculpture, ornamental, or monumental applications.

with a variety of ASTM test procedures. ~~Minimum and maximum values for the material's physical requirements are listed in Specification C615.~~

24. Marble

24.1 Geologically, marble is a metamorphic rock resulting from recrystallization of limestone. Within this geological definition, the term marble is correctly applied only to rocks comprising crystallized grains of calcite (calcium carbonate) or dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate), or both. Commercially, the term "marble" is applied not only to rocks meeting this definition, but also to rocks ranging from pure carbonate to those containing little carbonate, yet having compositions and textures that allow them to be polished. While sometimes loosely included in the definition of commercial marble, polishable limestones, travertines, and serpentines can be better evaluated under their correct stone type definition and appropriate specifications.

24.2 A geologic marble of pure calcite or dolomite would be white in color. Marble colors, veining, clouds, mottling, and shading are caused by substances included in minor amounts during formation. Iron oxides make the pinks, yellows, browns, and reds. Most grays, blue-grays, and blacks are of carbonaceous origin. Greens are the results of micas, chlorites, and silicates.

24.3 While marble has been used architecturally for many centuries and is one of man's oldest building materials, not all marbles are suitable for exterior use. The marble's texture is governed by the size, shape, and mutual relations of the component grains or crystals. Texture is often a factor in the material's ability to resist weathering effects. Marbles with a fine-grained, equigranular texture tend to be less weather-resistant than those with a medium to large grained, inequigranular texture, because the latter usually has an interlocking texture (grains with irregular boundaries, that interlock by mutual penetration).

24.4 Marble materials are used in a variety of architectural and memorial dimension stone applications. ~~A list of common applications follows:~~ Memorial applications include monuments, markers, mausoleums, and civic memorials.

Architectural:

Exterior cladding/curtainwall

Interior cladding

Exterior paving

Interior flooring

Furniture & countertops

Steps

Coping

Window sills/stools

Memorial:

Monuments/markers

Mausoleums

Civic memorials

24.5 Nominal thicknesses of marble offered by fabricators are as follows:

10 mm [3/8 in.]	Tile for interior use only with "thin-set" adhesives or as part of a panelized system with structural backing.
13 mm [1/2 in.]	Tile for interior use only with "thin-set" adhesives where heavier pedestrian traffic is anticipated.
20 mm [3/4 in.]	Interior cladding, interior flooring, furniture, and countertops.
30 mm [1 1/4 in.]	Generally considered the minimum thickness for exterior application without a structural backing. Design loads may require thicker material.
40-50 mm	Exterior cladding when design loads marginally exceed the capacity of material supplied at 30 mm [1 1/4 in.] or when reveals are machined into the face of the panel.
[1 5/8-2 in.]	Exterior cladding when extremely large panels are required or when deep reveals are cut into the face of the panel. Exterior window sills, copings, and exterior paving units subject to vehicle traffic.
80 mm [3 in.]	Landscape or site work applications such as curbs, steps, copings, and fountains.
100-200 mm	
[4-8 in.]	
>200 mm [8 in.]	Sculpture, ornamental, or monumental applications.

24.6 The physical properties of marble are determined in accordance with variety of ASTM test procedures. Minimum and maximum values for the material's physical requirements are listed in Specification C503.

24.7 The Marble Institute of America classifies marbles into four soundness groups. The basis of this classification is simply the usual fabrication and handling practices involved in working with the material. Practical experience with each material has deemed such practices to be both necessary and acceptable. The classification has no bearing on the cost of the material. The four groups are listed below:

24.7.1 *Group A*—Sound marbles with uniform and favorable working qualities; containing no geological flaws or voids.

24.7.2 *Group B*—Marbles similar in character to Group A marbles, but with less favorable working qualities; may have natural faults; a limited amount of waxing, sticking, and filling may be required.

24.7.3 *Group C*—Marbles with some variations in working qualities; geological flaws, voids, veins, and lines of separation are common. It is standard practice to repair these variations by waxing, sticking, filling, or cementing. Liners and other types of reinforcement are used when necessary.

24.7.4 *Group D*—Marbles similar to Group C marbles, but containing a larger proportion of natural faults, maximum variations of working qualities, and requiring more of the same methods of finishing and reinforcing. This group comprises many of the highly-colored marbles prized for their decorative values.

24.8 Most dimension stones return to their original volume after exposure to high or low temperatures. However, some marbles exhibit a phenomenon known as ‘hysteresis’, or a permanent volume change after exposure to thermal and moisture cycling. Hysteresis typically manifests itself as a bowing of the marble panels, often suggesting a pillowed effect. In addition to the bowing, the face of the panels becomes more porous, making the surface more vulnerable to attack by corrosive agents and freeze/thaw deterioration. Before selecting marble that is subject to hysteresis for a project, careful research should be conducted to determine the minimum thickness required to prevent failure of the cladding system.

24.9 Marble is a suitable and durable material for use when properly selected, designed, and installed. The ultimate test for any specific marble is its past historical performance on existing structures. Some marbles, particularly those included in the groups B, C and D classifications, are not suitable for exterior use.

25. Limestone

25.1 Limestone is a commercial rock term embracing both limestone and dolomite. It is a sedimentary rock composed principally of calcium carbonate (the mineral calcite) or the double carbonate of calcium and magnesium (the mineral dolomite), or a mixture of the two. Limestones, like all sedimentary rocks, contain organic matter and other natural characteristics that affect their appearance and properties. The amount, kind, and distribution of these natural characteristics may affect the suitability of the rock for commercial use. Limestones are known to exist in all geologic time periods and on all continents of the earth, but those that have properties of superior dimension stones are relatively rare. [C1528M-20](#)

25.2 Limestones are found in hues of white, brown, gray, yellow, red, or black, but those used commercially are commonly light earth tones of gray, buff, reddish or yellowish buff, or mixtures of these colors. The appearance of the stone is affected not only by color, but also by its texture, stratification, and finish. Texture is determined by the size, shape, and arrangement of component grains, skeletal minerals, and crystals. Stratification refers to the composition, thickness, and arrangement of component beds. Finish is brought about by milling or fabrication. Limestones range in texture from those so fine-grained that they lack visible particles, to coarse-grained, in which individual fossil shells may be apparent.

25.3 Some limestones are “anisotropic”, or directionally specific in their physical and visual properties, and have a preferred splitting direction. However, many widely-used limestones do not display a preferential direction of splitting, and are referred to as “freestones”.

25.4 Limestone materials have been used for hundreds of years in a variety of architectural dimension stone applications in all climates. ~~A list of common applications follows:~~

- ~~Exterior cladding~~
- ~~Paving and steps~~
- ~~Window lintels and sills~~
- ~~Wall copings~~
- ~~Interior cladding, base and mouldings~~
- ~~Interior flooring~~
- ~~Hearths, mantels, fireplace surrounds~~
- ~~Columns~~
- ~~Balustrades~~
- ~~Carvings, decorative trim~~

25.5 Nominal thicknesses of limestone offered by fabricators are as follows: