



Standard Terminology Relating to Dimension Stone¹

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INTRODUCTION

Dimension stone, as used here, is natural stone that has been selected and fabricated to specific sizes or shapes, with or without one or more mechanically dressed or finished surfaces, for use as building facing, curbing, paving stone, monuments and memorials, and various industrial products. The term *dimension stone* is in contradistinction to crushed and broken stone, such as is used for aggregate, roadstone, fill, or chemical raw materials. Because all stone is a natural material, the definition excludes all manmade materials that simulate stone. In common practice, some dimension stones are reinforced, filled, or surface treated.

Terms used in definitions and nomenclature shall be interpreted in accordance with commonly accepted scientific and technical terms of the geological sciences except as otherwise specifically noted.

Examples of such exceptions are the broader commercial definitions of granite and marble, which have become well established in the dimension stone industry and trade. Definitions and terms included in these definitions have been formulated in accordance with common industrial usage *where this is not in conflict with current scientific usage*.

GENERAL TERMS

anchor—in general, a metal shape inserted into a slot or hole in the stone that provides for the transfer of loads from the stone to the building structure, either directly or through an intermediate structure.

anchorage—the system consisting of stone, anchor and primary structure, secondary structure or back-up preventing lateral movement of the stone.

arris—the junction of two planes of the same stone forming an external corner.

ashlar—(1) a squared block of building stone; (2) a masonry of such stones; (3) a thin-dressed rectangle of stone for facing of walls (often called ashlar veneer).

building stone—natural rock of adequate quality to be quarried and cut as dimension stone as it exists in nature, as used in the construction industry.

chip—an irregularly-shaped piece of stone, usually with one convex surface, that has been dislodged from a snip.

cladding—nonload-bearing stone used as the facing material in wall construction that contains other materials.

crack—a partial break in the stone (see fracture, microcrack, seam).

cut stone—stone fabricated to specific dimensions.

dimension stone—natural stone that has been selected and fabricated to specific sizes or shapes.

DISCUSSION—The term *dimension stone* is in contradistinction to crushed and broken stone, such as is used for aggregate, roadstone, fill, or chemical raw materials. In common practice, some dimension stones are reinforced, filled, or surface treated.

dressed stone—See **cut stone, finished stone**.

durability—the measure of the ability of dimension stone to endure and to maintain its essential and distinctive characteristics of strength, resistance to decay, and appearance. Durability is based on the length of time that a stone can maintain its innate characteristics in use. This time will vary depending on the environment, the use, and the finish of the stone in question (for example, outdoor versus indoor use).

finished stone—dimension stone with one or more mechanically exposed surfaces.

bush-hammered—a rough uniformly patterned surface produced by an impact tool.

chat sawn—a rough finish produced by gangsawing with course chat sand.

diamond sawn—an even, relatively smooth sawn surface with fine striations on it from the diamond segments of the saw.

flamed—see **thermal**

honed—a superfine, smooth, satin-like, nonreflective finish.

polished—a smooth, reflective finish.

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rock face—a rough nonuniform convex surface that projects from the plane of the wall (stone) (see Fig. 1).

split face—a rough nonuniform cleft surface which may be slightly concave or convex.

thermal—a rough nonreflective finish (with a few reflections from cleavage planes) produced by applying a flame.

flooring—stone used as in interior pedestrian wearing surface.

fracture—a complete break in the stone (see crack, microcrack, seam).

grain—(1) a distinguishable rock constituent which itself has a distinct identity, for example, a mineral crystal, an oolith, a rock fragment (in sedimentary rocks), or clast.

(2) a direction in a rock body along which it is more easily broken, split, or cut. See rift.

granular—composed of particles visible to the unaided eye.

For sedimentary stone, the predominant particle distribution is less than 4 mm. in size.

hysteresis—the residual strain in stone after the stress causing such strain is changed.

installation—the process of assembling dimension stone into a structure.

microcrack—a crack too small to be seen with the unaided eye (see crack, fracture, seam).

monumental stone—rock of adequate quality to be quarried and cut as dimension stone as it exists in nature, as used in the monument and memorial industry.

open seams—unfilled fissures or naturally occurring cracks in stone.

panel—cut stone with face dimensions large in relation to its thickness, for placement in a building structure or frame assembly.

paving—stone used in an interior pedestrian wearing surface as in patios, walkways, driveways, and the like. (See *flooring*)

pits—small depressions, voids or pinholes in stone, especially on a finished surface.

polished finish—a surface that has high luster and strong reflection of incident light.

processing—the work involved in transforming quarry blocks into dimension stone, including sawing, drilling, grinding, honing, polishing, carving, and all other operations necessary for installation.

ribbon—in some slate, narrow bands of contrasting color or

appearance differing in some degree in chemical composition from the main body.

rift—(1) a consistent direction or trend in a rock body along which the rock is most easily split or broken.

(2) The grain orientation in stone, particularly in sedimentary stones, showing more or less clearly how the stone was originally bedded, and with or without color or grain-size changes, or voids and hollow.

rock—a naturally occurring, consolidated aggregation of one or more minerals constituting the crust of the Earth.

seam—a naturally filled or bonded crack which does not adversely affect the strength of a stone (see crack, fracture, microcrack).

shaped stone—dimension stone processed by carving, grinding, sawing, or other means into specific nonplanar configurations.

slab—a piece of stone produced by shaving or splitting in the first milling or quarrying operation. A slab has two parallel surfaces.

snip—the concave surface from which a chip has been dislodged.

sound stone—stone which is free of cracks, fissures, or other physical defects.

spalls—(1) fragments or chips from a piece of dimension stone. (2) waste stone usually of small size from the quarrying and milling of dimension limestone.

texture—(1) a modified appearance of dimension stone resulting from one or several mechanical surface treatments. Untreated stone surfaces have textural characteristics described under (2).

(2) that aspect of the physical appearance of a rock that is determined by size, shape, and mutual relations of the component grains or crystals. Textures related to dimension stone include *equigranular* (grains of approximately the same size); *inequigranular* (grains of markedly unequal sizes); *porphyritic* (see Note 2 under Granite Group); *interlocking* (in which grains with irregular boundaries interlock by mutual penetration); interlocking and porphyritic textures are characteristic of granites and marbles; *clastic* (naturally cemented fragmental grains but without mosaic or interlocking relations; this texture is typical of sandstones and some limestones); *mosaic* (closely packed grains with smooth to moderately irregular, noninterlocking mutual boundaries); *granoblastic* (a megascopically granular texture in which the grains are tightly compacted and the minerals are dominantly equidimensional and present irregular mutual boundaries; mosaic and granoblastic textures are characteristic of metamorphic rocks).

thin stone/thin veneer—a cladding under 2-in. thick.

tile—a thin modular stone unit.

veneer—a nonload-bearing facing of stone attached to a backing for the purpose of ornamentation, protection, or insulation.

DISCUSSION—Veneer shall support no vertical load other than its own weight and possibly the vertical dead load of veneer above.

walls, veneered—See *veneer*.

wear—the removal of material or impairment of surface finish through friction or impact.

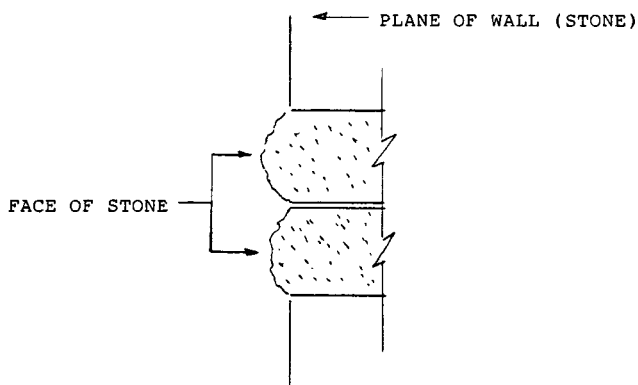


FIG. 1 Rock Face Diagram