



Natural Stone Species

MINERAL COMPOSITION AND FORMATION

	Sedimentary	Metamorphic	Igneous
Calcareous	Limestone Travertine Onyx	Marble	
Siliceous	Sandstone	Slate Quartzite Serpentine Soapstone	Granite Basalt

**This is not a complete list of stone types, but a compilation of the more common varieties.*

Stone Characteristics

Limestone: May contain fossils or shell formations, Often has calcite streaks or spots, pit holes, iron spots, and grain formation changes

Travertine: Pronounced anisotropic properties, Generally includes holes

Onyx: Used for decorative applications, Can be translucent, Vulnerable to chemical and mechanical attack

Marble: Highly prized for aesthetic values, Relatively uniform crystal matrix. Some marbles have large crystals while some are very fine (< .5 mm)

Sandstone: Generally more porous than other dimension stone, Abrasive non-slip surface, Most are resistant to chemical and salt deterioration

Serpentine: Wide range in quality and performance due to diversity in mineral content, Hardness varies from 2.5 to 5 on the Mohs' Scale

Soapstone: It commonly has a "soapy" to slippery and soft feel, It has a high chemical resistance, Often treated with mineral oil to enhance the color and veining, Also has high heat resistance and high heat retention properties

Slate: Exceptionally pronounced anisotropic properties, Has a "slaty" cleavage quality that allows it to be split into thin sheets

Quartzite: Breaks across grain, not around grain, Very durable material, Withstands weathering well

Basalt: Some basalt varieties are good for wet environment applications, Basalt is highly abrasive resistant (compared to marble or limestone).

Granite: High abrasion resistance, High densities, Chemical/weathering resistance, Can be nearly isotropic to mildly anisotropic