

Selecting a Natural Stone Slab

As a natural product, it is inherently earth-friendly. Natural stone offers many attractive, environmentally friendly attributes; including an enduring life-cycle, durability, and ease of care and maintenance.

Natural imperfections and blemishes are part of the beauty of natural stone.

No two stone slabs are completely alike.

Inspect the slab in good lighting

Use the light to help you find any fill or cracks. If you look at the slab at an angle instead of straight on, you should be able to see any cracks or fill.

Check for Fissures and Cracks

Fissure: A fissure in a stone slab surface is not a defect. A fissure is a line of separation or natural junction within a single intact stone slab. Fissures are formed when two different flows of hot liquid magma merge into a single mass. A fissure exists when the stone block is quarried. It's not altered when the stone block is cut into slabs. Eventually, a fissure remains in a stone slab permanently. In case there's an issue of strength in the fissured area, the slab yard will reinforce the underside of the slab and also epoxy the surface.

Crack: A crack is unlike a fissure. For confirming a crack, you should examine the back of the stone slab carefully. A crack runs throughout the stone slab. You can spot it even if the stone is reinforced with resin and mesh. Sometimes, entire slabs of less stable materials are coated with resin and fiberglass mesh.

Run your hand over the slab

Examine the slab surface for voids, dull polish, pits or other inconsistencies. Do you feel any pits, bumps or cracks? A good quality slab will be relatively smooth. Be sure to check any veining for cracks, as that is where they are most likely to be.

Check for any large blemishes

They will be a spot in the stone that looks different from the rest of the stone. Smaller blemishes can usually be avoided when the countertops are cut.

Other important items to remember

To get the best finished product you have to start with a quality stone.

The wholesaler will hold your materials only for a stipulated (short) period.

It is important to ensure there are enough stone slabs in your chosen bundle for completing your project.

Please feel free to contact your sales professional at Pacific Stonework's should you have any questions/concerns when choosing your stone.

PACIFIC STONEWORK'S INC. 805-648-4098