

GUIDE IN CHOOSING NATURAL STONE



YDL STONE

INSPIRED SURFACES

CHOOSING NATURAL STONE FOR YOUR KITCHEN?

Natural stone is one of the most beautiful and timeless materials you can choose for your kitchen. Each stone is unique, with its own character, natural variations, and performance qualities.

Understanding the differences between marble, limestone, travertine, dolomite, granite, and quartzite will help you select the stone that best suits your home and lifestyle.

Every natural stone has its own unique geological story and distinctive characteristics. They differ in durability, maintenance requirements, resistance to scratching, and sensitivity to acids and chemicals.

Understanding these differences will help you choose a surface that not only complements your design vision but also suits your lifestyle and the way you use your space.

WHICH STONES ARE BEST FOR KITCHENS?

For the Hardest Working Kitchens go for Quartzite and Granite

Best resistance to scratches

Excellent durability

Lower maintenance

For Luxury Kitchens with Natural Movement go for Dolomite and Quartzite

Marble-like aesthetics

Improved everyday performance

For Designers and Homeowners Who Love Patina go for Marble

Unmatched beauty

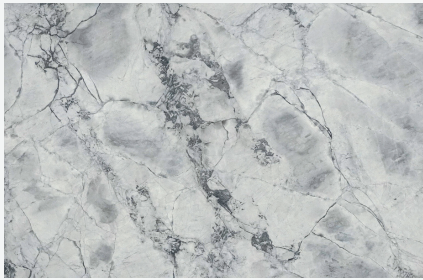
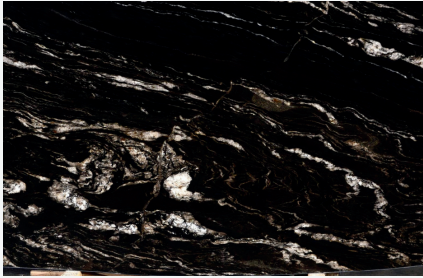
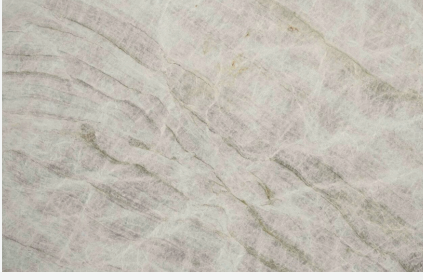
Accepts natural ageing as part of its character

For Warm, Organic Interiors go for Limestone and Travertine

Beautiful texture and warmth

Best suited for owners comfortable with more maintenance

MOHS SCALE OF HARDNESS FOR NATURAL STONE

	LIMESTONE Very soft and porous, scratches easily and is more prone to etching	3-4	 SOFT
	TRAVERTINE Very soft and porous, scratches easily and is more prone to etching	3-4	 SOFT
	MARBLE Softer stone, beautiful and classic but prone to scratching and etching.	3-5	 SOFT- MEDIUM
	DOLOMITE Harder than marble but still have to ability to scratch and etch	4-6	 MEDIUM
	GRANITE Durable and strong, scratch resistant and ideal for everyday use.	6-7	 HARD
	QUARTZITE One of the hardest natural stones, very durable and highly scratch resistant.	7	 VERY HARD

CARING FOR NATURAL STONE

Natural stone should be viewed as a living material. With proper sealing, appropriate cleaning products, and reasonable care, it will remain beautiful for decades.

For all natural stones:

Use pH-neutral stone cleaners (pH-7)

Wipe spills promptly

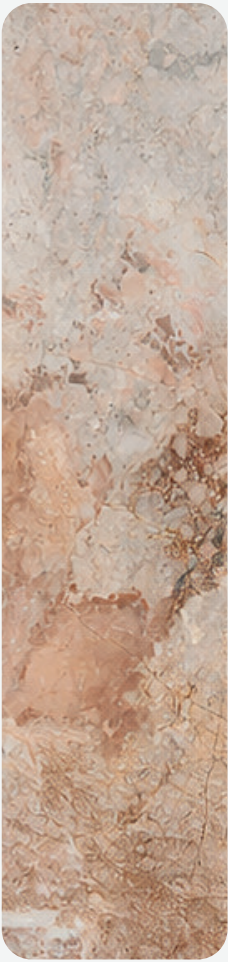
Avoid abrasive powders and scourers

Use chopping boards rather than cutting directly on the surface

Avoid leaving acidic products sitting on the stone

The unique variations found in natural stone such as veins, fossils, crystals, and tonal movement are not flaws. They are the geological fingerprints of a material formed over millions of years, bringing authenticity and timeless beauty into the heart of the home.





Marble - Timeless Beauty with a Softer Character

Marble is a metamorphic stone formed when ancient limestone is transformed by heat and pressure deep within the Earth. This process creates the crystalline structure and elegant veining that have made marble a symbol of luxury for centuries. Marble is admired for its dramatic movement, soft translucency, and refined appearance. However, its beauty comes with the responsibility of understanding its natural characteristics.

Characteristics:

- Luxurious appearance with unique veining
- Softer and more porous than granite and quartzite
- Can scratch more easily from abrasive materials
- Sensitive to acids, which can cause etching
- Requires sealing and careful maintenance

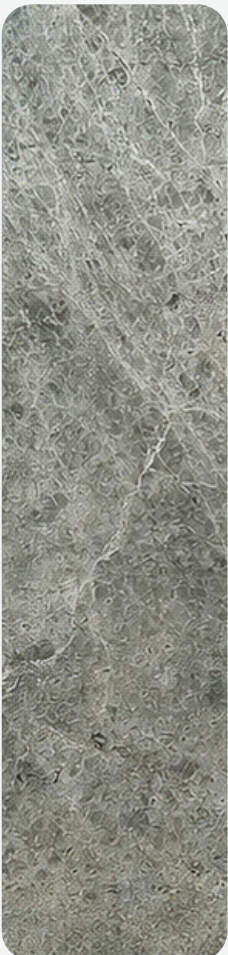
Etching Risk: High

Marble contains a high percentage of calcium carbonate, which reacts with acids. When acidic substances contact the surface, they can dissolve the calcium carbonate crystals, leaving a dull mark known as an etch.

Some common products that can etch marble: Lemon juice, lime juice, vinegar, wine, champagne, tomato sauce, citrus-based cleaners, bathroom cleaners containing acids, some bleach alternatives and descaling products.

Best suited for:

Statement kitchens, islands, splashbacks, and spaces where the owner appreciates natural patina and timeless character.



Limestone - Soft, Organic and Naturally Subtle

Limestone is a sedimentary stone formed from compressed marine deposits such as shells, fossils, and mineral sediments. Its soft tones and natural textures create warm and calming interiors.

Characteristics:

- Warm, earthy appearance
- Softer and more absorbent than many stones
- Can scratch more easily
- More vulnerable to acidic products
- Requires regular sealing

Etching Risk: High

Like marble, limestone is primarily calcium carbonate and can react quickly with acids.

Some common products that can etch limestone: Vinegar, lemon and citrus products, wine, soft drinks, fruit juices, acidic cleaning sprays, tile and grout cleaners containing acids.

Best suited for:

Architectural kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, and interiors where natural texture and softness are desired.



Travertine - Ancient Beauty with Natural Character

Travertine is a type of limestone formed by mineral-rich spring water deposits. Its natural pores and layered appearance reflect the conditions in which it formed.

Characteristics:

- Warm, earthy tones
- Distinctive natural movement
- Available filled or unfilled
- Softer than granite and quartzite
- Requires sealing and maintenance

Etching Risk: High

Because travertine is a calcium carbonate stone, it can be etched by acids.

Some common products that can etch travertine: Vinegar, lemon juice, orange juice, wine, soft drinks, acid-based cleaners, bathroom descaling products.

Scratching Risk:

Travertine can scratch more easily than harder stones, particularly with sand, grit and abrasive cleaning products.

Best suited for:

Warm contemporary kitchens, splashbacks, flooring, and spaces where natural variation and texture are celebrated.



Dolomite - Marble-Like Beauty with Improved Strength

Dolomite is a carbonate stone similar to marble but with a higher magnesium content. Many dolomites offer the timeless elegance of marble while providing greater durability.

Characteristics:

- Dramatic marble-like veining
- Generally harder than most marbles
- Better resistance to scratching than marble
- Still requires sealing and care
- Not completely acid-proof

Etching Risk: Moderate

Dolomite is more resistant than marble but can still react with acidic substances, especially over prolonged contact.

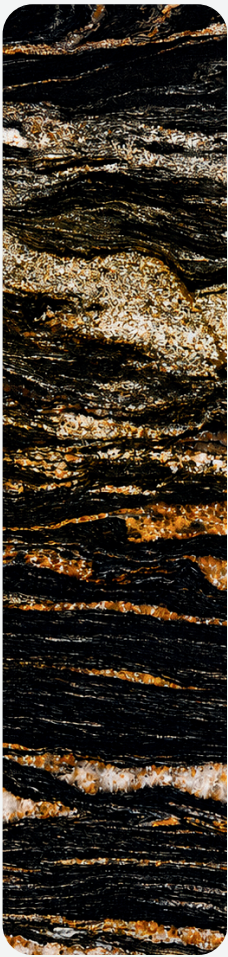
Some common products that may etch dolomite: Lemon juice, vinegar, wine, citrus cleaners, acid-based bathroom products.

Scratching Risk:

Lower than marble but higher than granite and many quartzites.

Best suited for:

Kitchen islands, benchtops, vanities and statement surfaces where beauty and practicality need to be balanced.



Granite — Strength and Everyday Performance

Granite is an igneous stone formed from slowly cooled magma beneath the Earth's surface. Its tightly interlocking crystals of quartz, feldspar, and mica create exceptional hardness.

Characteristics:

- Highly durable
- Excellent scratch resistance
- Excellent heat resistance
- Low maintenance compared with softer stones
- Available in many colours and patterns

Etching Risk: Very Low

Most granites contain little to no calcium carbonate, making them highly resistant to acidic foods and cleaning products.

Scratching Risk: Low

Granite is one of the most scratch-resistant natural stones used in kitchens.

Best suited for:

Busy family kitchens, heavy-use benchtops, commercial kitchens, and homeowners seeking durability.



Quartzite — The Luxury Performance Stone

Quartzite is formed when quartz-rich sandstone undergoes extreme heat and pressure, creating one of the hardest natural stones available.

Many quartzites offer the appearance of marble while providing superior durability.

Characteristics:

- Extremely hard
- Excellent scratch resistance
- Excellent heat resistance
- Marble-like appearance
- Requires sealing for stain protection

Etching Risk: Very Low

True quartzite is highly resistant to acids because it is primarily composed of quartz.

Scratching Risk: Very Low

Quartzite is among the most durable natural stones for kitchen applications.

Best suited for:

Luxury kitchens, large islands, waterfall edges, and high-performance architectural applications.



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