



Federation
Stone
Great Britain



Choosing and using natural stone for

your home



Published by Stone Federation Great Britain

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Natural stone products for use in the home - a buyers guide.

This is a guide on how to select both the material and the professionals for your natural stone project.

The use of stone such as marble, limestone, sandstone, slate and granite has gained in popularity for use in domestic applications. It has become the first choice for the interior designer and consumer when there is a desire to use natural as opposed to manufactured material and its use is regularly featured in the most popular and influential interior design magazines.

To meet the growing demand the number of shops and DIY warehouse outlets selling tiles, slabs or kitchen worktops, has also increased with highly competitive prices offered in comparison to ceramic and porcelain products.

Indigenous UK stones are identified by traditional name, quarry location and often have proven historical usage. A significant quantity of stone tiles, slabs and worktops used for residential works are however imported from all over the world. These are often given commercial names with no information about origin, characteristics or expected performance.





Buyers of stone for domestic applications should therefore ensure that they establish the necessary information from the seller in relation to the proposed use and suitability.

The following checklist is presented to assist in this process.

Petrological description

Establish the traditional name, quarry location and country of origin.

Technical characteristics

Check that packaging has a **CE** mark and refers to a product standard (e.g. BS EN 12058 floors and stairs, BS EN 1341 external paving, BS EN 120578 modular tiles). These set out dimensional requirements, visual appearance and technical requirements (e.g. frost resistance).

Slip resistance

For flooring and paving, check how the stone performs in wet conditions. Particular attention should be made to ensure that the values presented relate to the surface finish under consideration.

Treatment & cleaning

Check with the seller whether the stone should be sealed for your proposed application and if so the type of recommended product. The appropriate cleaning methods and products should also be established.

Finally, if you are paying to have the stone laid ensure that the installer is experienced in the installation of stone. Choosing the right stone and following good practice for installation should provide a floor that will perform for at least 20 years.



Stone Federation has prepared a number of guides to assist clients in their choice of natural stone in a domestic setting.



Code of Practice for the Design and Installation of Kitchen Worktops

This Code gives recommendations for the design, manufacturer and installation of natural stone for use as kitchen worktops and other similar surfaces and has been described as the essential document for anyone wishing to use natural stone in this area.

This Code is available now and is priced at £45.00 (£25.00 for Stone Federation members) including postage and packing (postage charge for overseas members).



Code of Practice for the Design and Installation of Internal Flooring

Based on the relevant parts of a number of British Standards relating to the design and installation of natural stone floors, this Code also incorporates the requirements of the latest European Standards and current good practice.

It sets out the principal factors involved when deciding to use natural stone as flooring and considers stone selection, design, laying, protection and maintenance, to assist in avoiding or disappointment with aesthetic results. This code will prove invaluable if you are intending to use natural stone in any type of flooring situation.

The Code is £50.00 (£30.00 for Stone Federation members) including postage and packing (postage charge for overseas).



Guide to Best Practice on the cleaning of internal and external masonry surfaces (including stone, brick, terracotta, concrete and faience).

The Guide covers all aspects of cleaning external and internal masonry surfaces, including stone, brick, terracotta, concrete and faience, and is available to clients, architects, specifiers and Stone Federation members only.

This code is £20.00 (£15.00 for Stone Federation members) including postage and packing (postage charge for overseas).

Stone Federation also have a range of Data Sheets available which include the installation of Natural stone fireplace surrounds.

Guides to wet rooms and natural stone swimming pools will also be available shortly.

A professional service



Stone Specifiers Guide

The Stone Federation Stone Specifiers Guide will help you in selecting a Stone Federation member to assist, advise, supply material or undertake your project, whether it be newbuild or restoration, whatever its size or location.

Stone Federation wants to make it simple for you to locate the member company that is appropriate to your circumstances as choosing the right advisor, supplier or contractor can make all the difference to your project.

This directory, which is free of charge, is an invaluable guide for architects, other professionals, clients, specifiers and domestic clients. It lists all the companies who have met our strict criteria for membership. You can be sure you are using a competent natural stone professional who is backed by the services offered by Stone Federation, the Trade Association for the natural stone industry.



Stone Federation website

As well as this printed guide we also offer an online search facility on our website at www.stonefed.org.uk. So, the message from Stone Federation is that whatever the size of, or nature of your natural stone project, whether it be a fountain or a church, newbuild or restoration, there is a member company available to assist and advise you at every stage of the project.

technical@

Stone Federation
provides **technical**
advice via email.

stonefed.org.uk

Simply email your query to technical@stonefed.org.uk and our technical team will do their best to provide you with an answer within 3 working days.

This service is available to Stone Federation members, architects, specifiers, commercial and domestic clients, designers, engineers and other professionals.

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