



THE  
MARBLE GROUP  
QUALITY GRANITE, BEAUTIFULLY FINISHED



WELCOME TO  
THE MARBLE GROUP

# HELLO & WELCOME TO THE MARBLE GROUP

We have a simple philosophy; to provide an exceptional shopping experience with an unrivalled product range using the finest craftsmanship and cutting edge technology.

It's this policy that makes The Marble Group Britain's biggest stone specialists.

With over 20 years combined experience, we have the same strong values of quality and customer care now as when we first started. Marble.co.uk are unrivalled in their knowledge and expertise. From the outset, the founders recognised that the key to success was an outstanding range of good quality products at prices to suit all budgets coupled with exceptional levels of customer service.

From our humble beginnings in a makeshift factory in a small garage, to our current home with a factory over 20,000 square feet containing the latest machinery, we certainly have had a great journey so far. Along the way, we have completed projects for places such as The Natural History Museum, Harrods, Selfridges and One Highgate whilst maintaining our core of kitchen worktops, bathrooms and other bespoke projects.

All our works are completed in-house using only the most experienced tradesmen. From some of the finest stonemasons around the globe to stone-fitters with over 20 years' experience; you can guarantee your worktops are in safe hands.

We source some of the rarest and most exquisite natural stones from around the world and offer all the leading brands of quartz to inspire customers with an amazing choice.

Our office staff are on hand from 9am to 5pm to respond to all customer enquiries.

We have designed this Welcome Pack to assist you in choosing and purchasing your perfect worktop.

Please find included in this welcome pack:

1. Stone Options and their Properties
2. The Process
3. Your Quotation Explained
4. Edge Details
5. General Information





# CHOOSING YOUR STONE

Stone worktops are increasing rapidly in popularity with more than half of all worktops fitted being stone. They last longer and add a touch of class that cannot be found in the other worktop options. Please visit our website [www.themarblegroup.co.uk](http://www.themarblegroup.co.uk) to view the stones available. They are grouped in colour and price bands with 1 being the cheapest.

Choosing the right stone worktop for you can be daunting with so many types and colours to choose from. Each type of stone has its own values and properties. This table visually portrays the differences between the materials to help you in your decision.

MATERIAL	GRANITE	MARBLE	QUARTZ	ULTRA-COMPACT MATERIAL
<b>What Is It?</b>	100% Natural Stone quarried from within the earth	100% Natural Stone quarried from within the earth	Man-made crushed quartz with a resin binder	Man-made Ultra compact surface
<b>Heat Resistance (1-5)</b>	Not affected by heat 4	Can crack by heat 2	Can be affected high heat, white marks will appear 3	Not affected by heat 5
<b>Resistance To Chipping (1-5)</b>	Not likely to chip 4	Can chip easily 2	Not likely to chip 4	Is prone to chipping on edges 2
<b>Scratch Resistance (1-5)</b>	Scratch resistance — small scratches can be repaired 4	Scratches easily 1	High scratch resistance —small scratches can be repaired 4	Most scratch resistant material on the market 5
<b>Staining (1-5)</b>	Porous- so staining is possible 3	Very Porous- so staining is likely 1	Non-porous very resistant to staining 4	Not affected by stains 5
<b>Colours / Finishes</b>	Limited colours Unique looks / Polished and honed	Limited colours Unique looks	Huge variety of colours and styles / Polished and honed	Limited colours and finishes
<b>Best Used For</b>	Worktops/ Bathrooms/ Cladding	Bathrooms/ Cladding/ Flooring	Worktops	Worktops/ Cladding



# QUARTZ

Thirty years ago, somebody decided that there were downsides to using natural stone, such as you are limited by the range of mountains on earth, and saw a demand in the market for a stone product that could make your choice virtually unlimited.

Quartz is a man-made synthetic stone that is made of roughly 93% quartz crystal and 7% pigment and resin (glue). As the years have passed and the processes have improved, they have been able to replicate some of the expensive, soft natural stones and creating a hard, uniform copy at a more competitive price. Quartz does vary from batch to batch and they sometimes differ in shade and in pattern but it is uncommon.

We find that the better-quality materials (although they may be the most expensive) are generally the best at the sample matching the finished product. Due to the resin in quartz, it is not particularly resistant to extreme heat and as such we always recommend a heat tray so that the resin doesn't melt. As with granite, pockets of air can crack the worktop when heated.

Quartz is scratch resistant but it can still scratch or chip, however one of the best qualities of quartz is that most of these can be repaired. Quartz is also a non-porous material, so if you spill something you can clear it up and it never usually a problem. Non-porous is not the same as stain proof, so don't think that leaving spilled red wine can wait until after the weekend. As with all worktops, the quicker you clean up the less likely you are to have a problem.

Quartz with a matt finish is more porous and is more susceptible to staining. If you do choose this finish you would need to be more careful and diligent that spillages are mopped up quickly.

# GRANITE

**The oldest material used for Kitchen worktops, Granite is a natural stone that is a coloured igneous rock with grains large enough to be visible with the unaided eye. It forms from the slow crystallization of magma below Earth's surface.** Granite is composed mainly of quartz and feldspar with minor amounts of mica, amphiboles and other minerals. This mineral composition usually gives granite a red, pink, gray or white color with dark mineral grains visible throughout the rock. It is pulled out of the ground in blocks and cut down to size, generally 20mm or 30mm thick.

Granite is a naturally robust product and can usually take quite a beating, but is it not invincible. Granite is a porous material and must be sealed. We do this ourselves before installation but it must be resealed every 1-3 years. This sealant is not a permanent fix and we recommend that with products such as wine, turmeric or coffee that any marks are cleaned as soon as possible.

As a natural stone that has been weathered by the seasons across millennia, it has a higher resistance to heat than other materials. This does not make it heat proof, for there are natural air pockets in the material, however small, that will be heated up and the hot air will need to escape and will crack the worktop along the path of least resistance. Many people will tell you that they have had granite for 20 years and they do not use a heat tray and there is no problem, and whilst this is probably true, that doesn't mean that it won't ever happen.



# SEEING A SAMPLE

Due to the fact it is a completely natural material, we recommend you visit one of our stone suppliers to choose your material prior to ordering. Please find below a list of recommended suppliers. If you do intend to visit, could you please let us know as some suppliers are by appointment only. On arrival, please let them know that you are there **from The Marble Group** and they will be happy to assist you. Things to look out for and avoid when choosing your slab are deep natural veins, pits and deep scratches as these slabs may not be suitable for your worktops. Once you have chosen your slab, please ask for the Slab ID Number (Or block number) and we will reserve this for you.

**THE MARBLE & GRANITE CENTRE** 01895 820883  
Troy Wharf/Old Uxbridge Rd, Rickmansworth WD3 9YB  
[www.themarbleandgranitecentre.co.uk](http://www.themarbleandgranitecentre.co.uk)

**STONE WORLD** 0208 838 3232  
4, 861 Coronation Rd, London NW10 7PT  
[www.stoneworldlondon.co.uk](http://www.stoneworldlondon.co.uk)

**GERALD CULLIFORD** 0208 390 4656  
52 Lower Marsh Ln, Kingston upon Thames KT1 3BJ  
[www.geraldculliford.co.uk](http://www.geraldculliford.co.uk)

**GRANITE GRANITE** 01268 761214  
Hemmells Park, Hemmells, Basildon, Essex, SS15 6GF  
[www.granitegraniteltd.com](http://www.granitegraniteltd.com)

**STONE YARD** 0208 951 9333  
Bush Industrial Estate, Standard Rd, London NW10 6DF  
[www.stoneyard.org](http://www.stoneyard.org)

**MGLW** 0207 720 9944  
44 Linford St, London SW8 4UN  
[www.mglw.co.uk](http://www.mglw.co.uk)

**PISANI** 0800 072 3950  
2A Plane Tree Cres, Feltham TW13 7AL  
[www.pisanigroup.com](http://www.pisanigroup.com)

**NILE TRADING** 01992 639139  
Unit 5 Burdon and Miles Ind Estate, Delamare Rd, Waktham Cross, EN8 9SP  
[www.nilestone.co.uk](http://www.nilestone.co.uk)



# ULTRA-COMPACT MATERIALS

## DEKTON/LAPITEC/NEOLITH

The newest product on the market, these materials are reconstituted stone, reproducing the effects of metamorphic rock. Crushed with the strength of over 700,000 tons and superheated, these materials are supposedly so scratch resistant you can chop straight onto your worktop with no cutting board (unless you cut with diamonds).

It is so heat resistant you can take a pan straight off the hob or take the tray straight out the oven and place it on your worktop without a problem. It is also so stain resistant that it has held up to our red wine, turmeric and vinegar check with absolutely no problem.

These materials are limited in terms of finishes and colour range as they are so new. The only downside to this is that due to their incredible strength, they can chip easier on the edges than most other materials.

## MARBLE, QUARTZITE & ONYX

Since the days of Julius Caesar and even before that, Marble has been a luxury product for a home. It looks beautiful, and some of them (such as Carrara) aren't even that expensive comparatively. They come in many variations and for central London they are extremely sought after. The problem with Marble, and other soft stones, is that they have all the negative properties of granite and more.

They are highly porous materials, if you spill a drink it can easily penetrate the stone and it is impossible to get out. They also scratch easily. The one thing we say about these stones is that in 5 years your stone will look like a completely different material. These soft stones are so much more difficult to work with. They can crack during cutting, during polishing, and during transit. Their use is not recommended for kitchen worktops



# THE PROCESS

You have a thickness, a material name (or a colour in mind) and a plan. If you send those details to [info@themarblegroup.co.uk](mailto:info@themarblegroup.co.uk), our office staff will usually get you a price back to you within 1-3 hours but always within 24 hours. If you are unsure what stone you want just yet, we are more than happy to send samples to you and pictures of completed works if needed. You are more than welcome to visit the showroom.

Once we return your quote and you are happy to accept, you can book your template up to 6 months in advance, up until about 4-5 days beforehand. We usually have a slot within 48 hours, but please be advised it is best to book it in as early as possible as your date may not be available. We do not require a deposit this. We template to insure millimeter accuracy.

When we template, please use our "worktop preparation checklist" to make sure everything is ready for us. I will send this to you once you have accepted our quotation and are happy to proceed. Once we have templated, your kitchen cannot change; any cabinets that move and then move back will throw off our measurements and your final product will not fit correctly. Any changes made after template will require another template to be made so there are no discrepancies in our process. An additional template appointment would incur an additional charge.

We will usually return and fit your worktop 7 working days after your template. In December this extends to 7-14 days. It is imperative that someone of sound knowledge of your worktop requirements are on site on your template and fit appointments, in case our staff have any specific questions that need answering.

## EDGING OPTIONS

### STANDARD EDGES

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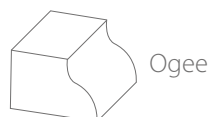
### EXTRA CHARGE EDGES

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### LUXURY EDGE DETAIL

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# YOUR QUOTATION EXPLAINED

Polished Cut Out	Under-mounted Sinks
Unpolished Cut Out	Hobs, over-mounted sinks, extractor cut outs etc.
Drainer Grooves	5 grooves cut in the worktop flowing into the sink
Tap Holes	A small hole for a tap
Angles	When the worktop must be cut any other angle other than a right-angle 90 degrees.
Curves	When the worktop gradually changes direction in an arc. One curve = up to 90 degree change.
Plug Socket Cut Out	A small rectangular cut out in the surface of a worktop, or more likely the splash-back
Pop Up Plug Socket Cut Out	A larger hole than the tap hole
Recess Hob Cut Out	A hob that can be flush with the worktop. Please be aware that most hobs are not completely flat and therefore most flush mounted hobs are not perfect. There is a 2mm tolerance around the area in every direction.
Recessed Drainer	An area is cut in to the worktop next to the sink that slopes into the sink area.
Integrity Sink	A sink made entirely out of quartz and integrated into the worktops seamlessly where possible.
Removal of Prior Worktop	If you require us to remove a previous worktop.
Dekton/ Lapitec/ Neolith Cutting	An additional charge for cutting ultra- compact surfaces
Template	A physical template of your kitchen will be taken by our team
Fitting	Your finished product will be skilfully fitted by our team

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## SIZES

**Most slabs come in size 3 Meters by 1.4 Meters, however there are many exceptions.** Natural stone slabs vary enormously, at maximum 3.3m wide and sometimes 2m tall, down to 2m wide by 1m tall, depending on which material it is. These sizes are quite rare so it would be best to plan for the parameters of 3m by 1.4m. It is always best to check with us or with your local natural stone supplier if the kitchen design depends on the size. Some quartz brands stock 'jumbo slabs' as well, which are slightly wider and slightly longer than standard sizes normally 3.25m x 1.56m.

## FINISHES

**Most materials are polished directly after being manufactured, before being shipped to the warehouses of the suppliers.** This polish provides some protection against staining. Sometimes, the slab is then unpolished and new textures are applied. This process removes the stain protection that the polish created. These have a variety of names: Suede, Letano, Satinado, Antique and more. These are a smooth matt finish; but there is also a flamed finish for some natural stones, which feels rough to the touch. The process of removing the polish means that these materials are also slightly more expensive than their polished counterparts and are more porous. All edges are polished even on leathered material unless otherwise specified.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

**All worktops have several rules they must follow so that they remain intact during transit and during operation i.e. minimum distances.**

- The minimum distance from a hob to the front rail should be 60mm
- The minimum distance from a hob to the back rail should be 60mm
- The minimum distance from a sink to the front rail should be 70mm
- The minimum distance from a sink to the back rail (including the space for a tap) should be 110mm. This is especially important with a backsplash to allow for a gap behind the tap and the backsplash.
- Depending on your appliance, we recommend to build units off of the wall so that worktop width is no less than 620mm.

If these conditions are met, the worktop should not break during its use or during its transit, however it can happen especially with some of the softer materials. If this happens, we will sometimes cut the stone straight and put a join in it, and reinforce it so that the worktop can still be installed. Customers should be advised of any conditions so that they are not surprised should this occur.





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THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED  
ENQUIRY TO THE MARBLE GROUP

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**Fax:** 020 8216 2042

**Email:** [info@themarblegroup.co.uk](mailto:info@themarblegroup.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.marble.co.uk](http://www.marble.co.uk)

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