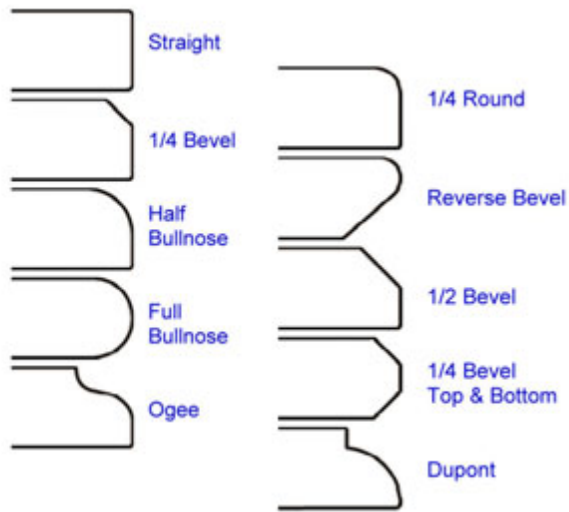


## Edge Treatments



## Stone Finishes

- Polished surface – Large machines progressively grind the stone to a specular, mirror-like finish. Uses - low traffic indoor flooring, wall cladding, counter tops, vanity tops & decorative items.
- Honed surface This less formal, softer-appearing stone has a matte or satin finish. Uses – high traffic indoor/outdoor commercial flooring, wash rooms, side walks.
- Flamed or Brushed surface Blowtorch-strength heat is applied to the surface to create a deeply textured surface ideal for outside use. Uses – external flooring, decks, pavements, side walks, curb stones, garden benches.



Worldwide Purveyors of  
Unique Stones



9675-A SW Tualatin Sherwood Rd  
Tualatin Oregon, 97062

Phone: 503.692.8020

Fax: 503.217.5707

[granite@elemaroregon.com](mailto:granite@elemaroregon.com)

[www.elemaroregon.com](http://www.elemaroregon.com)

# EleMar Oregon

Granite & Marble Information Publication

## A Guide to Buying Stone



Phone: 503.692.8020

[www.elemaroregon.com](http://www.elemaroregon.com)

## Granite Explained

Granite is igneous rock with visible crystalline formation and textures. It is composed of feldspar and quartz, with small amounts of mica and other minor minerals. Granite crystallizes from magma that cools slowly, deep below the earth's surface. The rate of cooling gives rise to various crystal grain structures. Typically, the slower the lava cools, the larger the crystals become. Granite, along with other crystalline rocks, constitutes the foundation of the continental masses, and it is the most common rock exposed at the earth's surface.

Granite has greater strength and hardness than sandstone, limestone, and marble making it more difficult to quarry. Gang saws using diamond coated cables take up to 6 days running 24 hours a day to slice through a block. Slabs are numbered in sequence and polished. It is usually a good idea to select slabs that are from the same block for your countertop project. The variance in color patterns from block to block can be significant.

Granite as a countertop surface provides one of the most attractive and durable surfaces available. It is highly resistant to scratches, stains and heat and will last virtually forever. Granite does not harbor bacteria and resealing only needs to be done when water stops beading on the counter surface.

## Marble Explained

Marble is metamorphosed limestone, composed of very pure calcium carbonate. The softness of marble and its consistency makes marble very desirable for sculpture and building. Marble is essentially limestone, that has been subjected to much higher amounts of temperature and pressure during its metamorphosis. Three primary locations for marble are Carrara Italy, Pentelicus Greece, and Proconnesus Turkey. Because of its expense and maintenance requirements, marble is not often used for kitchen countertops. In addition, marble is subject to stains from acidic foods and juices. Some new sealers can retard staining. Typical uses include floors, wall coverings, tabletops, bathroom walls, floors, vanity tops and showers. There is no doubt, in the hands of the right designer, Marble can make a most stunning statement in your home.

## Limestone and Travertine Explained

Limestone is a sedimentary rock, mainly composed of mineral calcite. The primary source of the calcite is typically marine organisms, which are deposited on the ocean floors as pelagic ooze. Popular uses include flooring, interior and exterior cladding and exterior paving. Travertine is limestone that is formed by geysers. Manufactured as tiles or slabs, travertine is generally filled with cement and is then polished or honed. More common uses are for flooring and siding. It is sometimes used for countertops.

## Purchasing Stone

Buying stone can be a little confusing but the process is pretty straight forward. Rock from all over the world is mined into blocks that are purchased by quarries. Quarries cut and polish the stone into slabs. These slabs are numbered in sequence, packaged into bundles and shipped by container overseas to import-distributors.

Distribution warehouses like EleMar are open to the public for slab viewing and selection. The warehouse staff can give general information regarding the stone cost and help guide customers through budgetary issues. Once the stone is selected arrangements are made to deliver the slabs to the fabricator for fabrication and installation.

EleMar will hold the stones for a customer for 5 days with no money down. A fabricator can hold the slabs longer while the quote is processed. If the project is weeks or months down the road a deposit is normally required to hold the slabs for that period of time.

If a fabricator has not yet been selected EleMar can provide a list and help obtain quotes for the project.

Selecting a stone is a very important and personal process that deserves a lot of consideration. Feel free to bring in color and cabinet samples to compare with the stones. Ask lots of questions. Lighting is important. If you need more light our staff will provide it. Courtesy is the first rule at EleMar because we understand the importance of your investment in natural stone. It's an investment that will pay dividends in beauty and functionality for many, many years.