

## Marble

*"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."* Michelangelo.

Marble is probably the most common and popular natural stone. It has been carved into world famous artwork, like Michelangelo's La Pieta, among other countless historic and modern stonework.

Marble is a metamorphic stone that is created from re-crystallization of limestone and consists primarily of calcite, dolomite, or a combination of both minerals. It typically has "veins", which distinguishes it from other natural stones.

Pure calcite is white, but mineral impurities add colour, for example, limonite adds yellow colour. The purest form of marble is the so called statuary marble. The most famous types of statuary marble are the Pentelic marble of Greece (used by ancient Greek sculptors and in the world famous Elgin marbles) and Statuario marble of Italy (used by Michelangelo and other great Italian sculptors).

Marble derives from the Greek word "marmaros" which means shining stone. Polished marble is indeed shining, whereas honed marble has a matt finish.

Marble is a versatile material that can be used in endless applications including, tiles, worktops or countertops, fire places, cladding, vanities, other stonework and artwork.

There are marble quarries in many countries, including Italy (especially Carrara and Verona regions), Spain (especially Novelda region), Iran, Greece, Russia, etc.

Marble comes in different finishes, with polished and honed being most popular ones. Other finishes (applicable only to some varieties of marble) are aged/antiqued, brushed and flamed.

Most popular marble colours are white (Thassos or with veins like Carrara or Cloudy White), beige (like Crema Marfil, Botticino) and Grey (like Grey Marquino or Bianco Siro).

Marble is a hygienic and hard-wearing material, unlike carpets or even parquet flooring.

In a residential environment, marble has been traditionally used mainly in bathrooms, kitchens and hallways. Due to various development, in particular the wide-spread use of under-floor heating, marble is now often used throughout property, including sitting room, dining room and bedrooms.

We have large stocks of marble in our London warehouse – floor and wall tiles and slabs. We fabricate made to measure stonework, including marble worktops, countertops, window sills, steps, bath surrounds, fire surrounds, etc. Contact us to discuss your requirements.

Some Examples of Marble	Picture [a rough guide only]	Technical characteristics – extracts [provided in good faith & to the best of our knowledge]
Amarillo (Yellow)		Bulk density: 2,500 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 127 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.5%
Arabescato		Bulk density: 2,700 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 132 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.37%
White Carrara		Bulk density: 2,700 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 133 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.4%
Cloudy White		Bulk density: 2,720 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 135 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.35%
Grey Marquino		Bulk density: 2,830 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 127 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.12%
Statuario		Bulk density: 2,680 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 127 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.35%
Thassos White		Bulk density: 2,800 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 98 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.25%
Gran d'oro		Bulk density: 2,800 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 140 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.7%
Soomer		Bulk density: 2,640 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 115 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.18%
Crema Royal a.k.a. Royal Botticino		Bulk density: 2,700 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 190 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.15%
Pamchal		Bulk density: 2,590 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 128 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.2%
Bianco Siro		Bulk density: 2,700 kg/m <sup>3</sup> Compressive strength: 160 N/mm <sup>2</sup> Water absorption: 0.2%