

# Handling & Care of Natural Stone

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to ensure that all stone handling and care procedures on the project are carried out in a safe and professional manner to minimize damage to the stone and ensure high-quality finishes. This applies to all personnel involved in the transportation, storage, handling, and installation of stone on the project.

This covers the handling, storage, selection, and care of natural stone products from delivery to installation. This includes stone slabs, tiles, or any other stone materials used in cladding, flooring, and other construction applications.

This Document ensures that stone is handled and cared for in a manner that maintains its integrity and appearance while reducing the risk of damage and ensuring worker safety during the construction of high-rise projects.

## HANDLING PROCEDURES

### **Delivery and Unloading**

Inspect the stone upon delivery for any visible damage. Inform a Casa Della Casa representative immediately of any damaged stone material. Use forklifts or cranes to unload large crates or pallets. Ensure proper slinging techniques are used to prevent damage to the stone.

### **Storage**

Store stone undercover in a dry area to prevent moisture damage. Ensure adequate ventilation to avoid condensation. Pallets or crates of stone should be placed on flat, level ground to avoid tipping or movement. Avoid storing stone directly on bare surfaces. Use pallets or soft material (e.g. rubber matting or coreflute) to prevent contact with the ground.

### **Stacking**

Avoid stacking stone directly on top of each other to prevent surface scratching. If stacking is necessary, stack stone on their edge, ensuring that they are positioned face to face and back to back, with a soft material (e.g., coreflute) between the surfaces to protect the edges.

## STONE SELECTION & INSTALLATION

### Stone Selection

- When selecting stone for installation, pick from at least three crates to ensure a varied mix of stone patterns and colours. This avoids visual repetition and ensures aesthetic consistency.
- For areas of high visibility (e.g. building entrances, lobbies), select the highest grade stone to enhance appearance and durability.

### Installation

- Ensure that all stone is handled with care during installation to prevent chipping, cracking, or scratching.
- Use non-marking spacers and equipment to avoid leaving marks or damage to the stone surface.
- Ensure that stone is installed by experienced masons who are familiar with the material and project specifications.
- Ensure the correct adhesives are used in accordance with manufacturers recommendations to achieve the best result. For lighter coloured stones, only use white based adhesives to avoid discolouration. For moisture-sensitive stones, consult the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines.
- Before installation, we recommend doing a 'dry lay' of the stone to check the colour and pattern variations, ensuring the preferred look for your space.

## STONE SEALING

- Apply a high-quality stone sealer after installation and before the area is exposed to heavy use.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for the type of stone sealer to be applied.
- Rationale: Sealing protects the stone from stains, moisture, and other potential damage, prolonging its lifespan and maintaining its appearance.
- The sealing process should be part of the final steps in stone care and protection to ensure that the stone is well-maintained throughout its use.

## POST-INSTALLATION CARE

- Apply a protective cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, core flue, foam padding, or plywood) over the stone surfaces after installation to safeguard against potential damage from ongoing construction activities.
- Regularly inspect the protective covers to ensure they remain intact and free from damage.
- Ensure that all workers and subcontractors are informed about the installed stone and instructed to avoid contact or damage during subsequent work. manufacturer's guidelines.
- Before installation, we recommend doing a 'dry lay' of the stone to check the colour and pattern variations, ensuring the preferred look for your space.

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSIDERATIONS**

- Dispose of all packaging and protective materials responsibly, ensuring minimal environmental impact.
- Avoid excessive water usage when cleaning stone surfaces to prevent water seepage and potential damage.

**QUALITY CONTROL**

- Conduct regular inspections throughout the handling, storage, and installation process to ensure compliance with this document.
- Address any instances of non-conformance immediately and implement corrective actions as required.
- Ensure stone surfaces are clean and free from damage before final handover to the client.