



OUTDOOR

PRODUCT SELECTION GUIDANCE

Natural Stone and Porcelain Paving.



LOCATION

Location It is especially important to select the correct product for your location, for sunny south facing areas you can use any of our paving range, you will just need to follow some simple maintenance routines to keep your paving looking perfect for many years to come.

In shady/North facing areas or areas with overhanging trees, more care needs to be taken when selecting your paving. We would recommend using denser and darker coloured materials such as Indian Limestone, Granite and Porcelain paving. The darker colours will help hide the dirt and due to the increased density of these products, dirt and algae will find it hard to penetrate in these areas even after selecting the most suitable paving product, increased maintenance will be required, and we would always recommend sealing your paving with an impregnating sealant directly after installation.

CHIPPING, DAMAGE, AND BREAKAGES

There is always a level of slight damage with natural stone and porcelain products, this is part of the production process and is unavoidable. Every level of care is taken in packaging and delivery of these products but some level of damaged will be present this is completely normal and acceptable within the natural stone industry. Any slabs where the damage may be visible should be used for cuts or in area that is not going to be seen. You can expect between 5-10% to be affected within your orders and this should be allowed for when ordering.

COLOUR VARIATION

Natural stone products will have a degree of colour variation within each product. Colours will change as the material is mined in different areas of the quarries so over time changes will occur. Even with each batch of stone there will be a large level of variation, you must ensure that you are happy with the colour variation before you start laying, as after installation exchange will no longer be possible.

If you require a more consistent coloured slab we would recommend using limestone, slate, granite natural stone paving. Another option is Porcelain paving as these have only very subtle colour and texture variations within each batch.

Porcelain is manufactured using natural materials and coloured pigments, therefore colour and texture may vary from batch to batch. Each batch is kept as consistent as possible, but we would recommend that when you purchase your Porcelain paving you take note of the batch number which is present on the cardboard packaging around of each slab just in case you might need to order additional material. This may also mean that the Porcelain you receive when you ordered may be slightly different from the samples or showroom displays you may have viewed before purchasing.

We do not recommend mixing different sized slabs with any of our porcelain products as batch variation will occur between the varied sizes as they have been manufactured at separate times.

CALIBRATED PAVING

Calibrated paving goes through a process where one of the riven surfaces of the slabs is removed to create a consistent thickness. This process helps reduce laying time as less slabs selection and bed thickness adjustments are need during installation. You will still find small variations in thickness of the slabs so some degree of grading due to dimensional tolerance will be required.

FADING

Fading All porcelain and most natural stones are UV stable and therefore will not fade, over larger periods of time some natural stone products will lighten slightly through acidic rainfall, but a good clean with a good quality PH neutral patio cleaner such as Uniseal New Clean 60 and then a re-seal will help bring them back to their original colour.

The exception to this is Black Limestone which will fade from a dark black to a charcoal grey with a few months of being exposed to the UV from the sun and acidic rainfall. There are products on the market to help prevent and re-colour black limestone, these products have very mixed results and are not a permanent solution. So, our recommendation would be if you're not happy with the faded charcoal colour of the product, it's going to be best to look for a different product that will not fade such as Nero Porcelain or Black Indian Granite paving.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE BLACK LIMESTONE IS ESPECIALLY PRONE TO DAMAGE FROM ACID BASED CLEANER AND WILL DAMAGE THE SURFACE OF THE STONE AND WILL CAUSE IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE TO YOUR PATIO.

PRODUCT QUALITY

There are a few things that you will need to investigate when selecting your paving to insure you purchase an excellent quality product.

Natural stone paving products are graded on things such as colour variation, flatness of the finish and in the case of travertine paving density is also especially important. Most suppliers will purchase natural stone products at a price that they set, so they can maintain their margin, Natural Stone and Timber Ltd is always prepared to pay a little more to ensure that we have the better graded products as this allows us to continually offer a better product, helping us build a good relationship with our regular trade customers and offer a superior product to everyone. When you have made your selection the most important thing is that you are happy with the finished product before you start to install your paving and that everything is checked in full, because after installation no replacements or exchanges will be possible.

Porcelain paving is a fully vitrified product meaning that the paving is baked at such high temperatures that the individual particles of the mineral ingredients melt and fuse together to form a single mass, making the tiles extremely hard wearing with extremely low porosity. This makes Porcelain a very suitable paving material for almost any paving application and helps reduce the ongoing maintenance of the product.

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF STAFF AT YOUR LOCAL DEPOT, ON ONE OF THE NUMBERS BELOW, WHO WILL BE HAPPY TO ADVISE YOU ON ANY OF OUR PRODUCTS.

PORTSMOUTH **02392 652923**
MON-FRI 7:30-16:30 SAT 9:00-14:00

POOLE **01202 736629**
MON-FRI 8:00-16:30 SAT 9:00-14:00

ROMSEY **01794 322908**
MON-FRI 7:30-16:30 SAT 9:00-14:00

TADLEY **01183 342256**
MON-FRI 8:00-16:30 SAT 9:00-14:00

WINCHESTER **01962 883708**
MON-FRI 7:30-16:30 SAT 9:00-14:00

WWW.NATURALSTONEANDTIMBER.CO.UK