



## **Surfaces, Tolerances & Details**

**What truly matters – and where projects are decided**

**Most natural stone projects do not fail because of the material.**

They fail because of expectations.

Surfaces that were “imagined differently”.

Transitions that were never defined.

Tolerances that were discussed too late.

This guide focuses on exactly these aspects

not to complicate, but to **create clarity**.

Because details are not secondary.

They are the **future costs of today’s decisions**.



# Purpose & Scope

## Purpose of this guide

This guide supports you in:

- assessing surfaces **realistically**
- considering tolerances **early in the process**
- defining details **consciously and transparently**

## What this guide deliberately is not

- a catalogue of normative tolerance values
- an execution manual for craftsmanship
- a replacement for detailed design or mock-ups

The larger the slab, the smaller the margin - technically and visually.

# Step 1: Understanding surfaces (not just selecting them)

Surfaces define **appearance, usability, maintenance and ageing**.

- polished
- honed / satin
- brushed
- flamed
- structured / antique

## Key questions before deciding:

- How does light affect the surface?
- How does it react to use and cleaning?
- How visible will wear and traces of use become?

## Note:

A surface looks different in a sample than in a room and different again after two years of use.

## Step 2: Putting tolerances into perspective

Natural stone is **not an industrial product**.

Tolerances are normal - the decisive factor is **how they are handled**.

### Typical tolerance-related topics:

- flatness
- joint alignment
- edges
- dimensional deviations
- slab thickness variations

### Practical insight:

Tolerances become a problem when they were **never communicated in advance**.

## Details that can destabilise projects

Often underestimated - yet decisive for later disputes:

- ⚠ transitions to other materials
- ⚠ connections to walls, profiles, doors
- ⚠ edge zones & movement joints
- ⚠ slopes, drainage, water guidance
- ⚠ plinths, steps, edge solutions

**Key thought:** You may not notice details immediately. But you feel them every day.

## Expectation management (the invisible success factor)

Many conflicts arise because expectations remain **unspoken**.

Before approval, clarify:

- desired visual appearance
- accepted variation
- visible vs. non-visible areas
- ageing & patina desired or not

**Important:** A sample shows material. A space shows reality.



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## Decision support: evaluation logic

### ● Surface & details aligned

→ use, appearance and technique in balance

### ● Coordination required

→ define details, document expectations

### ● Critical risk

→ high likelihood of later discussions

- surface effect understood
- tolerances accepted
- details defined
- decision made consciously

## Closing

### Good details do not draw attention.

They simply work.

This guide helps you neither to overestimate nor to underestimate surfaces and tolerances.

Because quality emerges where design meets reality.

Further insights, case examples and in-depth knowledge can be found in our additional guides and expert formats.



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