

## ***What is Marble?***



Marble is a kind of lime stone which is available in many colors. White marble has been in use, for construction of buildings since ancient times. The people of Greece and Egypt used this stone for construction of temples. The Taj Mahal in India is also made from the white marble. It is unaffected by heat, cold, rains etc.

Marble is found in nature in the form of rocks. You may not be aware as to how these rocks are formed? These rocks are formed from Limestone. The tremendous heat and, pressure beneath the earth's surface converts Limestone into marble rocks. If you analyze the chemical composition of marble, you will find that it is mostly calcium carbonate. Some varieties of marble contain ninety-nine per cent calcium carbonate. Marble acquires a variety of colors due to the presence of some salts of aluminum and magnesium in it. Pure marble is snow white.

It is cut into big pieces from the rocks by machines. These big pieces are brought to workshop where they are cut into convenient desired sizes. Marble obtained from rocks is initially coarse. To smoothen its surface, it is polished with the help of special machines. After this it is ready for use. Italy has some of the vast and well known marble

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quarries in the world. About one Lakh tones of marble is obtained in Italy every year. The longest marble quarry of USA is located in Vermont.

Because of its beauty, it has always been a favorite material for sculpture, architecture and many other purposes. Famous sculptors, like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci used marble for many of their works.

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