

Calacatta Marble

Natural Marble / Italy

Calacatta Marble is a premium Italian marble distinguished by its bright white background and bold, expressive veining.

It is primarily specified for high-end interior architectural applications where visual impact is prioritized. Despite its prestige, Calacatta Marble remains a chemically sensitive material and must be detailed with a clear understanding of its performance limits.

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Recommended Applications

Suitable for: Interior wall cladding, Feature walls and statement surfaces, Bathroom walls (non-shower zones), Decorative architectural elements (fireplace surrounds, columns)

Typical use cases: Luxury residential interiors, Boutique hospitality projects, Low-impact, design-led commercial spaces

*Calacatta is best treated as a **visual focal material**, not a workhorse surface.*

Surface Finishes

Recommended finishes: Honed – preferred for controlled interiors, Polished – decorative use only

Finish guidance: Honed finish softens reflections and reduces the visual impact of etching, Polished finish maximizes contrast and veining but increases maintenance sensitivity

Slip Rating (Indicative)

Honed finish: R9, Polished finish: R9

Not suitable for wet floors or slip-critical zones.

Slip resistance varies by finish method and maintenance condition and should not be relied upon for safety in wet areas.

Dimensional Tolerances

Tiles: ± 1.0 mm, Slabs: ± 2.0 mm

Values assume premium quarry selection and calibrated processing.

Recommended Adhesive & Installation

Adhesive:

- White, stain-free, flexible cement-based adhesive
- Classification: C2TE S1 (EN 12004)

Installation notes:

Full adhesive coverage required - Back-buttering strongly recommended - Avoid dark, rapid-setting, or epoxy-based adhesives unless specified by the supplier - Movement joints must be respected

Maintenance & Aging Behavior

Calacatta Marble is **highly sensitive to acids**.

Expected aging characteristics:

- Etching from acidic substances (wine, citrus, vinegar)
- Loss of surface uniformity in high-contact areas
- Visible patina development over time

These effects are normal and irreversible and should be anticipated at the design stage.

Not Recommended For (Critical)

Calacatta Marble should not be specified for: Kitchen countertops with heavy daily use, Shower floors or wet walking surfaces, Pool decks or pool coping, Exterior applications, High-traffic commercial floors, Any area requiring stain resistance or low maintenance

Ignoring these limitations often leads to premature surface damage and client dissatisfaction.

Specification Notes (For Project Documents)

Specify honed finish for most interior applications

Clearly define "decorative / interior use only" in specifications

Avoid generic "Calacatta-style" substitutions without physical slab approval

Include maintenance and patina expectations in client documentation

Stone Moods Professional Note

Calacatta Marble is not selected for performance. It is selected for presence. When used as an accent material within its limits, it delivers iconic architectural value. When forced into functional roles, it becomes a maintenance burden. Specification discipline is essential.

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