

# Marble Quarries: What Are They and What Happens There?

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As with a quarry that produces any other type of natural stone, a marble quarry is a place where the natural stone is extracted from the earth, cut and shipped off to fabricators before you choose the slab you like for your new countertop, backsplash, vanity top or other home structure. But what exactly goes on at a marble quarry? The following will inform you of what happens at a marble quarry and how your marble makes the journey from the quarry to your countertop or other home surface.

## Why is Marble So Desirable?

Marble is one of the most sought after natural stones in existence and has been for centuries. The material has been used to build everything from famous statues, such as Michelangelo's David, to countertops in modern day homes. Marble comes in many different colors and patterns, which further adds to the stone's appeal. Homeowners love the idea of having such natural beauty in their homes.

## What Happens at a Marble Quarry?

At the quarry, it can take months before any marble is able to be extracted from the earth. But once it is, the process can finally begin. Dynamite is used to loosen the marble from the walls of the quarry, and then the stone is cut into blocks. Each block weighs roughly 15,000 to 25,000 pounds. Once the marble blocks are cut, the stone can be cut into thin pieces called slabs. Marble slabs are then transported to the fabricator, who will ultimately shape the stone to suit the needs of your specific project.

Marble Quarrying: The Process

Step 1	Extract the marble
Step 2	Cut the marble into blocks
Step 3	Cut the blocks into slabs
Step 4	Transport the marble

## Where Are Marble Quarries Located?

Marble quarries are located in many places across the globe. The most famous quarries are located in the Apuan Alps in northern Italy. This region is well known for producing some of the world's finest marble. Italian marble is by far one of the most desirable natural stones in the world.

Marble is one of the best natural stone materials that you can have in your home. Despite other materials that can be made to mimic the look of marble, there is nothing quite like the distinctive coloring and veins that you will see in marble. Marble quarrying is a carefully executed job that allows access to some of the most beautiful material that the planet produces. Wherever your marble or the marble you are looking at was quarried, you now know the process of how the stone travels from inside the earth to your home.