

**REQUIREMENTS OF GOOD BUILDING STONE &**  
**STATE IMPORTANT VARIETIES OF BUILDING STONES**

Good building stones are crucial for construction purposes as they provide strength, durability, and aesthetic appeal to structures. The requirements of a good building stone include:

**1. Hardness:**

The stone should be hard enough to resist wear, abrasion, and impact. This ensures durability and longevity.

**2. Strength:**

A building stone should have sufficient strength to withstand the loads and stresses to which it will be subjected in a structure.

**3. Durability:**

The stone should be able to withstand adverse weather conditions, chemical actions, and other environmental factors without deteriorating.

**4. Density:**

Higher density stones are generally more durable and less porous, making them suitable for construction purposes.

**5. Porosity and Absorption:**

Low porosity and absorption are desirable to prevent water absorption, which can lead to cracking, decay, and weathering.

**6. Texture and Grain Size:**

Stones with a fine-grained texture are generally stronger and more durable. The size, shape, and arrangement of mineral grains also influence the appearance and strength of the stone.

**7. Color:**

Depending on the aesthetic requirements, color can be an important factor. Some stones may be preferred for their natural color, while others can be artificially colored for specific architectural needs.

**8. Mineral Composition:**

The mineral composition of the stone affects its properties. Quartz, feldspar, and mica are common minerals found in building stones.

**9. Workability:**

The stone should be easy to cut, shape, and dress to meet the specific requirements of construction.

**10. Specific Gravity:**

It indicates the density of the stone material. Stones with higher specific gravity are generally more desirable.

Some important varieties of building stones include:

It's essential to consider the specific requirements of a project when selecting a building stone, taking into account factors such as load-bearing capacity, weathering resistance, and aesthetic considerations.

1. **Granite:** Known for its hardness, durability, and attractive appearance, granite is commonly used for countertops, flooring, and monumental structures.
2. **Marble:**  
Appreciated for its aesthetic appeal, marble is often used in flooring, countertops, and decorative elements. It comes in various colors and patterns.
3. **Sandstone:**  
Sandstone is a sedimentary rock with a granular texture. It is used for construction, paving, and in the production of decorative items.
4. **Limestone:**  
Limestone is a versatile stone used in construction, particularly for cladding, flooring, and sculptures.
5. **Slate:**  
Slate is a fine-grained metamorphic rock that is durable and has natural cleavage, making it suitable for roofing and flooring.
6. **Basalt**  
Basalt is an igneous rock that is hard and durable, often used in construction and road building.