

SOAPSTONE

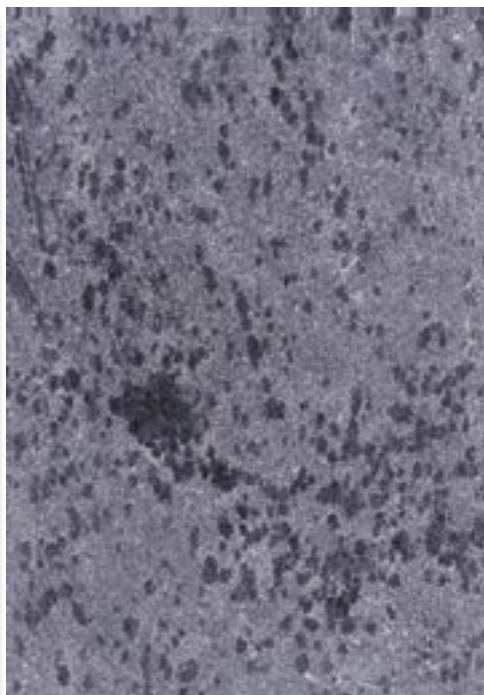
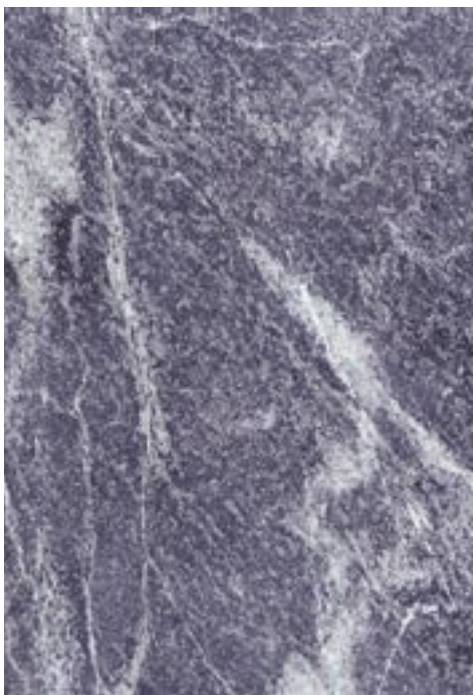


MICAPEL SLATE is one of Brazil's major enterprises in the areas of natural stones for flooring, paving, wall-cladding, landscaping and roofing. It has its own quarries and plants. Its international businesses reach more than 75 countries world-wide. It is structured in specialized units for slate, quartzite, roofing tiles, mosaics and **SOAPSTONE**.

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

SOAPSTONE (or in petrographical terms, **steatite**) is a metamorphic rock whose chief component is usually talc, and also contains varying parts of chlorite, mica, tremolite, quartz, magnesium and iron contents. It is found in areas where tectonic plates changed the rocks by heat and pressure, without melting. **Soapstone** is found mostly in grey to green color. It has a greasy or soapy feel, hence the name **soapstone**. Large commercial deposits of soapstone are found in Brazil, mostly in the state of Minas Gerais.

Everything is done by **MICAPEL SLATE** to supply topmost quality **soapstone**





Quarrying



Large inventories of blocks ready for opening into plates



Soapstone blocks ready for milling



Blocks are cut into plates



The system of block cutting ensures even thickness



Automatic milling machines hones the plates



Quality control –
each plate is carefully checked



Packing – plates are wrapped in neutral
polyethylene sheets for protection



Large inventories of packed plates ready for shipment

How to treat or seal soapstone

Use standard mineral oil (like that purchased in a pharmacy). Rub it on the stone. Rub off any excess. Too much oil makes it look like wet. Over time, the mineral oil should be re-applied. Stone sealers have only limited effect on **soapstone**, compared to granite or slate.

Cleaning

Use a sponge and clean water, utilizing a neutral detergent, if necessary.

Water absorption

Soapstone is practically impenetrable. Nothing can go down into this stone. It is not affected by alkalis or acids.

Heat resistance

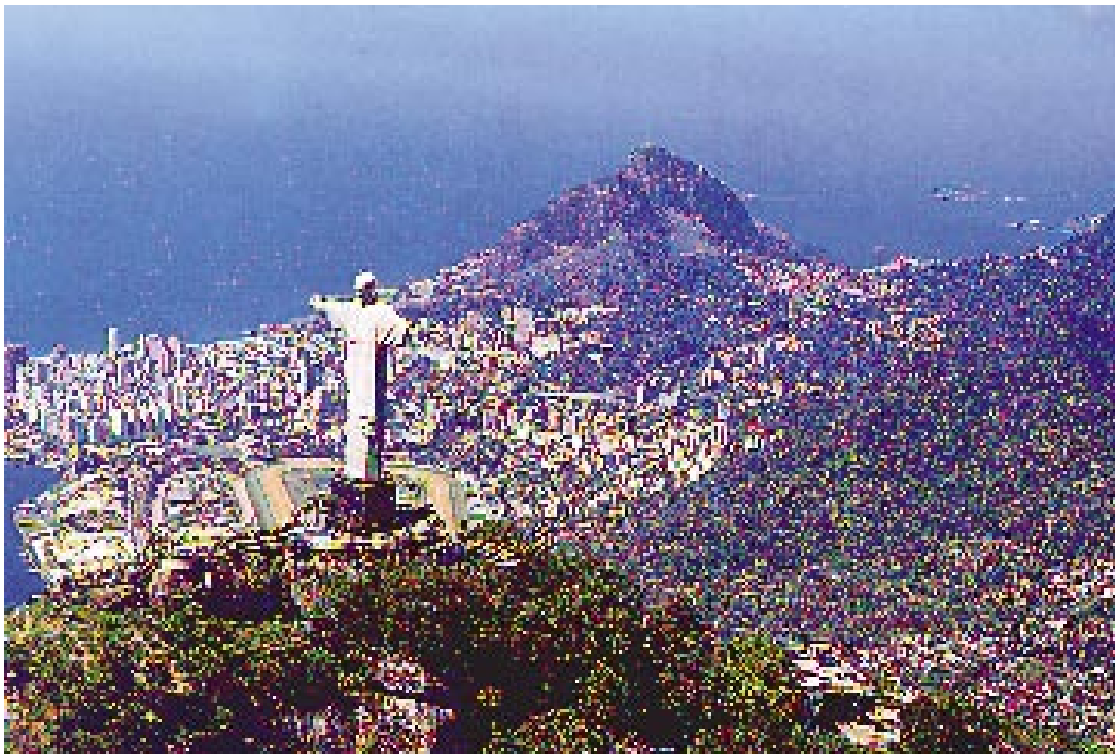
One of the remarkable features of **soapstone** is its excellent capacity to resist extremes of temperature well below zero and above $\pm 1000^{\circ}\text{C}$ (2000°F).

Weather resistance

Soapstone resists all kinds of weather changes for hundreds of years.



Statues of the Twelve Prophets, by Aleijadinho, Brazilian sculptor (1730 - 1816), carved in **Soapstone**, Congonhas do Campo, state of Minas Gerais. For more than 200 years under weather exposure and in perfect condition.



Statue of Christ the Redeemer, Corcovado, Rio de Janeiro, 700 meters high. Entirely clad with **Soapstone** tiles. Built from 1926 through 1931. For almost 80 years exposed to harsh weather conditions, including air pollution, and even so it is altogether unaffected.

BEST USES OF SOAPSTONE

Soapstone for fireplaces and ovens

Soapstone, due to its excellent heat absorption properties, retains most of the warmth produced by the energy source (wood, coal, charcoal, gas, electric power) and conducts it quickly through the so-called thermal mass heating. This means that the stone itself acts as an efficient source of heat and not the actual flame, as it happens in traditional open fireplaces. In other words, the fireplace heat is absorbed by the mass of the **Soapstone** and is then released slowly and evenly over time, even after the source of heat is extinguished or turned off. The outstanding feature of **Soapstone** is that it generates radiant heat while remaining generally safe to touching.



Austria



Austria



Austria

In addition to fireplaces and fireplace surrounds and ovens, for which **Soapstone** is the material of choice, it is used for:

Flooring

Wall-cladding

Kitchen countertops

Bathroom flooring and wall-cladding

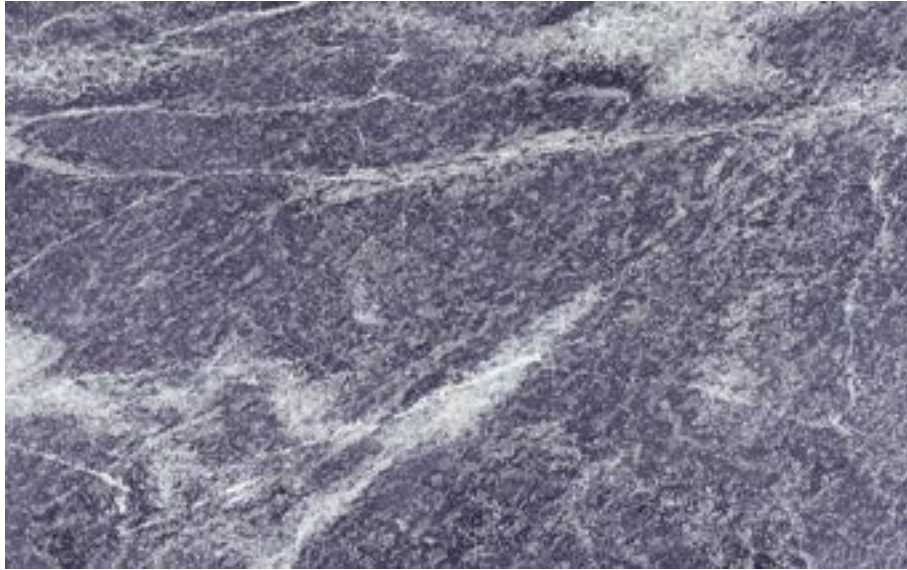
Landscaping

Handcrafts

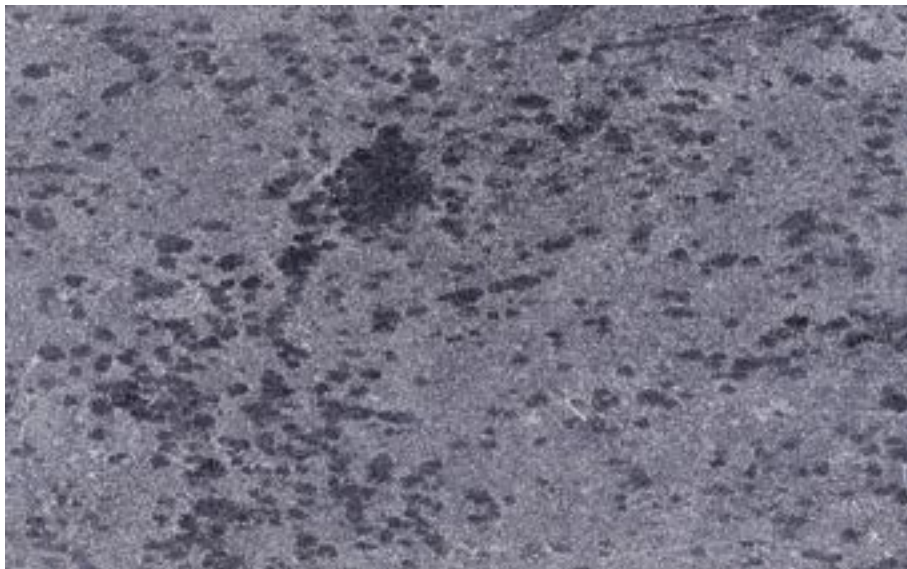
SIZES AND FORMATS AVAILABLE

Large Plates || Slabs

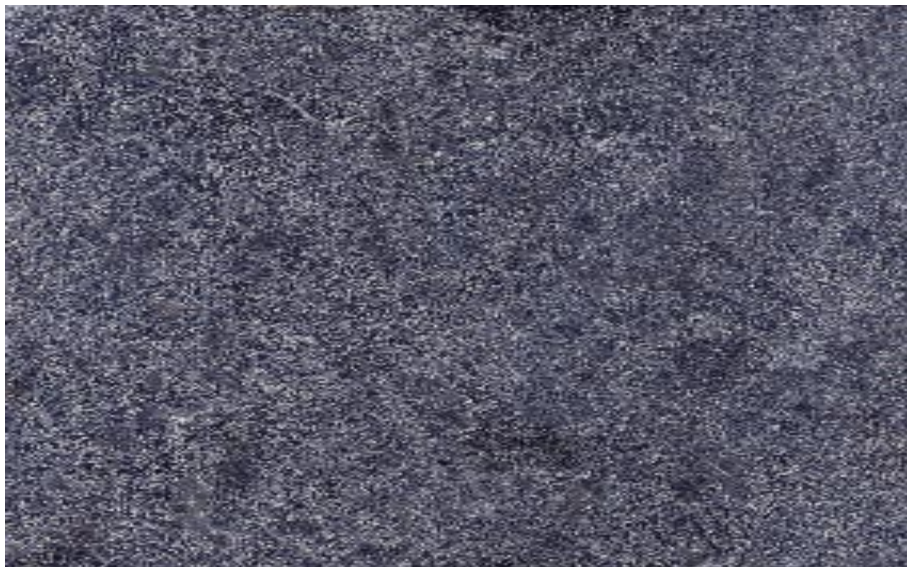
COLORS



Dark grey, with white veinings



Pale grey, with dark dots and veinings



Dark grey

Remark: These photos are shown only for purposes of illustration; the colors do not necessarily match those of the actual product.

MAXIMUM SIZE SUPPLIED

Up to
300x180x3cm



Dark grey, with white veinings



Pale grey, with dark dots and veinings



Dark grey

FINISHES

Honed face; gauged back

Cut-to-order (split face)

STANDARD SIZES AVAILABLE

LARGE PLATES

SIZES <i>[in centimeters = cm]</i>	LENGTH	WIDTH
	Varying <i>[from / to]</i>	
Extra large	260 / 300	150 / 180
Very large	230 / 259	120 / 180
Large	180 / 229	110 / 180

SLABS

SIZES <i>[in centimeters = cm]</i>	Varying <i>[from / to]</i>	
	122 / 135 / 153 / 183 / 214	67 / 77

TILES

SIZES <i>[in centimeters = cm]</i>	STANDARD SIZES	
	30x30	40x40
	30x60	40x80

REMARK: Combination of varying sizes and lengths can shorten delivery schedule
(because of selection)

JOB GALLERY



USA



USA



Austria

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Member

