



## **LAPITEC – A NEW STONE PRODUCT SET TO REVOLUTIONISE SOLID SURFACE DESIGN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Lapitec sintered stone is a new full bodied hard surface material available for the first time in the United Kingdom. It has been developed and manufactured in Italy using advanced scientific techniques to produce a product that is neither a natural stone; an artificial quartz stone; a ceramic or a porcelain, but which shares the natural advantages of them all.

The process by which Lapitec is produced is known as sintering; the process of creating an object from a powder through compression and heat. In the case of Lapitec, a sintered stone is created from 100% highly refined minerals and fired at over 1,200°C. The minerals used in Lapitec's manufacture are natural with no resin or hydrocarbon based binder components required. The physical and chemical environment of aggregation and crystallization is closely controlled; giving a product with a similar chemistry and mineralogy to granite – but with a tight cryptocrystalline structure similar to porcelain.

The Marble & Granite Centre Ltd, one of the most comprehensive natural stone wholesalers in the UK has recently signed an exclusive deal to market, distribute and provide after-sales service for Lapitec in the UK. The product has already been heralded by UK fabricators as 'inspirational', and 'something that we will definitely be specifying in the future'.

Lapitec has many possible applications including paving, interior and exterior cladding, flooring and kitchen and bathroom surfaces. However, with imagination its uses are almost endless, and European designers have also used it to great effect in sports and leisure facilities. French designer Philippe Starck has also incorporated it in a range of outdoor furniture.

In the UK Lapitec is being marketed to architects and designers who are attracted by its Italian design heritage, and the very many advantages of using the product. Lapitec is strong yet light, it's hard wearing, mould resistant, anti-bacterial, impervious to UV rays and scratch resistant. It is also non-absorbent, easy to maintain and available in slip resistant finishes.

## LAPITEC – for kitchens

### KEY FEATURES

*Sintered Stone is an entirely new hard surface product from Italy*

*Full bodied, so it looks the same all the way through not just on the surface*

*Stain, heat and deep abrasion resistant*

*Antibacterial and mould resistant*

*Light in weight yet very strong, Lapitec is a highly workable product*

*Great choice of colours and finishes*

Lapitec sintered stone is an amazing new hard surface material that is set to revolutionise kitchen design.

It is a full bodied product, this means that its physical and visual properties are consistent throughout (it looks the same all the way through).



Because Lapitec is full bodied, it can be easily cut to form perfect work surfaces of any shape and design including sink surrounds, splash backs and drainers all with beautifully formed edges.



Although a stone product, Lapitec is also light in weight and kitchen designers in Italy, where the product originates have made entire kitchens from the product, cutting the large slabs into doors, door fronts and end panels with incredibly stylish results.

Pure cutting edge design.



On the practical side, because of the revolutionary manufacturing processes, Lapitec is impervious *and* heat resistant. So yes, you can put hot objects down on it and it won't mark. It won't stain or discolour even when it comes into contact with acids or alkalines, including vinegar, lemon juice, red wine or beetroot. It is also treated with a product called Biocare, a titanium oxide based material that ensures micro-organisms breakdown safely on the surface, making a Lapitec worktop mould resistant, anti-bacterial and self-cleaning.

In addition, Lapitec has amazing impact and deep abrasion resistance so it won't scratch, chip or shatter making it ideal for use in a busy kitchen no-nonsense preparation areas are required. Choose a Lapitec worktop, and it will stay looking beautiful until you decide to change it.

Lapitec also makes a stylish and practical floor surface that won't warp over underfloor heating and comes in slip resistant finishes.

## THE LAPITEC RANGE

Lapitec is available in a wide range of colours and finishes. The colour palette currently comprises of contemporary pale and earthy colours commonly found in natural stone as well as styles which mimic veined marbles and stone.

Grigio Piombo



Grigio Cemento



Porfido Rosso



Antracite



Tabacco



Bianco Crema



Avorio



Bianco Polare



Sahara



Arabescato Corallo



Ebano



Arabescato Perla



**Each colour is available in four different finishes: -**

*Lux* – a highly reflective polished finish (far right)

*Satin* – a flat eggshell sheen (2<sup>nd</sup> right)

*Vesuvio* – a fine textured, tactile but smooth surface - similar to a Satinato (Leather) finish on a fine grained Granite (2<sup>nd</sup> to left)

*Fossil* – a coarser textured surface finish, with a 'roughness' similar to the split face surface of natural stone (left)



## LAPITEC TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Technical Specification	Test Results	Standard
Size	3400 x 1500mm (133.8" x 59")	EN 14617-16
Thickness	12 – 20 – 30mm	EN 14617-16
Specific Weight	2.4kg/dm <sup>3</sup>	EN 14627-1
Flexural Strength	53 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	EN 14617-2
Water absorption	0.1%	EN 14617-1
Compression resistance	230-250 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	ASTM C773*
Impact resistance	2.9Joule (12mm)	EN 14617-9
Deep abrasion resistance	139mm <sup>3</sup>	EN 14617-4
Frost resistance	Resistant	EN 14617-5
Fire reaction	A1	EN 13501-1
Resistance to acids and bases	C4 – Resistant	EN 14607-10
Colour resistance to light	No colour change	DIN 51094*
Co-efficient of linear thermal expansion	$6.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}^{-1}$ *	EN 14617-11
Thermal conductivity	1.3 W/m K*	EN ISO 10456

Standards		Standards	
 Size 3.400 x 1.500 mm	EN 14617-16	 Deep abrasion resistance 25,5 mm	EN 14617-4
 Thickness 12 - 20 - 30 mm	EN 14617-16	 Frost resistance Resistant	EN 14617-5
 Specific weight 2,4 kg/dm <sup>3</sup>	EN 14617-1	 Fire reaction A1	EN 13501-1
 Flexural Strength 53 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	EN 14617-2	 Resistance to acids and bases C4 Resistente	EN 14617-10
 Water Absorption 0,1%	EN 14617-1	 Color resistance to light No change of colours	DIN 51094
 Resistance to compression 230 - 250 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	ASTM C773	 Coefficient of linear thermal expansion $6,3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ °C}^{-1}$	EN 14617-11
 Impact Resistance 3,3 Joule sample: 20 mm thick	EN 14617-9	 Thermal conductivity 1,3 W/m °K	EN ISO 10456

## **LAPITEC – ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS**

Lapitec is committed to respecting the environment and the health of others, and in helping create a more sustainable tomorrow.

The manufacturing process for Lapitec is closely monitored, and the company does not use any raw materials obtained through petroleum processing. Additionally, Lapitec uses renewable energy in its manufacturing – thanks to the 13,000 sq/m of solar panels fitted to the roof of Lapitec’s headquarters in Vedelago, Italy.

Lapitec is an inert product, which does not release any substance into the environment.

At the end of the cycle, Lapitec can be used as recycled aggregate when scrapped, or disposed of as an inert product.

Lapitec in the UK is distributed by The Marble & Granite Centre Ltd, a company with similarly comprehensive green credentials – including a head office with geothermal heating, and an excellent BREEAM rating.

## **LAPITEC – CONTACT INFORMATION**

<http://www.themarbleandgranitecentre.co.uk/>

**The Lapitec Press Office is co-ordinated by hp4pr. Contact Anne Consedine on 07818 048438 or email [anne@hp4pr.co.uk](mailto:anne@hp4pr.co.uk) to receive hi-res images, arrange an interview with the Marble and Granite Centre team, discuss case studies or to be added to the Lapitec Press list.**