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HOW TO PICK RIGHT MARBLE

An interesting piece of information found during our research:

VEINS

While giving beauty, the veins, cracks and fissures also affect marble's strength. Therefore, the surface of marble should be thoroughly examined for large fissures or cracks from both sides to make sure that it is only a vein of color without a crack running through it. Sometime, manufacturers apply fiberglass or epoxy mesh reinforcements on the backside of tiles to ensure that it does not break which affects the ability of the marble tiles to adhere. Use an epoxy-based thinset instead of one containing cement.

DIMENSION

The thicker the marble, the better it is, that's the golden rule. So check that it shouldn't be very thin. Also, the perfect square shaped tile should also be looked for since it ensures tight and equal grout lines while laying. Select tiles that are of the same dimensions, height, length and depth, when you want a level floor or countertop.

CHIPS AND CRACKS

More than 5% of Chips and cracks indicate weakness in the tile, making the marble too soft threatening to chip and crack during installation. Ensure smoothness on all surfaces: the edges, front and back of the tile. Check for pockmarks or indications of crumbling in lower quality marble tiles.

DOCTORED TILES

A change in appearance is also important to judge the quality of marble tiles. The addition or fill in the chip or crack in the tile creates dull area when holding the tile under a light at a slight angle, especially when most of the surface has a mirror-like appearance.

High quality marble tiles contain no holes or breaks that require the addition of fill. Avoid using acidic chemicals when cleaning marble tiles, as the material that makes up marble, calcium carbonate, disintegrates with the application of acids.

The 'ovum' bath tub made with the careful and wise choice of the Calacatta marble, is an interesting union between shape and material, as if by magic, marble veins seem to gush out of the bath together with water and the result is light, flowing and dynamic. Studio Archizero: designers Michele Cazzani and Tony Matijas

