

Longpré Meuse limestone

ALSO KNOWN AS Longpré stone, Meuse stone, <i>Calcaire de Meuse dit de Longpré</i>	TYPE Crinoidal limestone	STRATIGRAPHICAL AGE Lower Visean (V1a, Lower Carboniferous, Palaeozoic)
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TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION

Calcite > 99 %

ATTRIBUTES

Apparent volumic mass
2725 kg/m³

Porosity
1 % vol

Speed of sound within the material
6000 m/s

PERFORMANCE

Resistance to compression
in the order of 145 N/mm²

Resistance to bending
11 N/mm²

Modulus of static elasticity
70 GPa

Rate of wear
2.66 mm / 1000 m

Susceptibility to frost
none

Sensitivity to atmospheric pollutants
very low

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS OF UNTREATED ELEMENTS

Length
2.5 m

Width
1.5 m

Thickness
1.5 m

MINIMUM THICKNESS FOR APPLICATION

Floor tiles - Facing
2 cm

EXTRACTION ZONE

Valley of Meuse, province of Liège

AVAILABILITY



APPEARANCE, COLOUR AND PATINA

This rock, which has a coarsely-grained structure, displays the remains of shells and several scattered traces of crinoids, standing out mid-grey against the rock's light grey background, slightly tinged with beige. Veins and white marks are rare. With the grinding or polishing process the stone retains a light grey shade. With exterior applications, it displays a light grey, almost white patina, whilst if used in interiors it remains mid-grey in colour.

This limestone is streaked with faults and thin veins which limit the size of the blocks. On the other hand, the terraces which pass through it are firmly bonded and do nothing to diminish its quality.

COMMON APPLICATIONS

The large amounts of cuts and finishes which this stone can take, as well as its vast range of possible sizes, make it widely sought after as it can be applied in so many different ways, for interior and exterior usage alike: basement courses, covering façades, rubble stones, wall covering, exterior tiles and setts, borders, doorsteps, surrounds for bay windows, window sills, stairs, interior paving, covering interior walls, skirting boards, worktops, covering for bridges, rockfill, street furniture, as well as all the usual applications for marblework, dressing and sculpture.

DESCRIPTIVE SPECIFICATIONS

«Light grey crinoidal limestone, stratigraphical age Lower Visean (Lower Carboniferous, Palaeozoic) the stone will be sound, of good quality, and will produce a clean sound on being struck with a metallic hammer. It will not display badly bonded thin veins, which are generally very fine, nor black lines which retain water».

STANDARD CUTS	MINIMUM THICKNESS		STANDARD THICKNESS AND SPECIFIC FEATURES	NOTES
	MEC.	MAN.		
Split	4 cm	6 cm	8-12/12-15/15-20 cm	This cut is chiefly used for shaping rubble stones. In this case, the thickness corresponds to the stone depth perpendicular to the wall face.
Sbattu	thick	5 cm	mechanical 5 cm mechanical 4 cm	Produced from a sawn surface. This is quite a rough cut.
	thin	4 cm		
Striated	–	5 cm	–	Exclusively manual cut produced mainly from a split surface.
Bush-hammered	thick	5 cm	manual 6 cm - 15/25 sawteeth mechanical 5 cm manual 5 cm - 49 sawteeth mechanical 4 cm	Fairly rough cut requiring the preparation of a sawn, grinded or chiselled edge, in order to preserve the sections. A manual cut enables a curved surface to be produced.
	thin	3 cm		
Sclypé	5 cm	–	5 cm - 12 lines/dm	Not used for flooring, nor for treating viewed sides.
Combed	5 cm	–	6 cm - 10 lines/dm	Not used for flooring, nor for treating viewed sides.
Chiseled	3 cm	5 cm	5 cm manual 15/20/25 strikes/dm	Edging: perpendicular chiselling from 3 to 5 cm preserving the sections that other cuts risk damaging.
Old cut	4 cm	5 cm	5 cm	–

STANDARD FINISHES	MINIMUM THICKNESS		STANDARD THICKNESS AND SPECIFIC FEATURES	NOTES
	MEC.	MAN.		
Sawn	2 cm	–	2 cm	It is now quite the norm to produce thin coverings measuring 1 cm thick. Hints of a light grey (sawn-grinded) to dark grey (honed - polished). Exterior applications are not recommended for polished finishes.
Grinded	2 cm	2 cm	3 cm	Dry finish, chiefly used for the treatment of visible surfaces of shaped stone, hints of shades of grinded grey to grinded blue-grey according to the grain of the abrasive used.
Honed	1 cm	–	2 cm	According to the grain, displays a range of grey shades which become increasingly stronger in tone, even being markedly tinged with beige.
Polished	1 cm	–	2 cm	Not recommended for exterior facing. Not for use on floors.



Honed thin (scale 1:1)

STANDARD DIMENSIONS

Dressed stones

length 30-150 cm, width 10-60 cm, thickness 2-50 cm

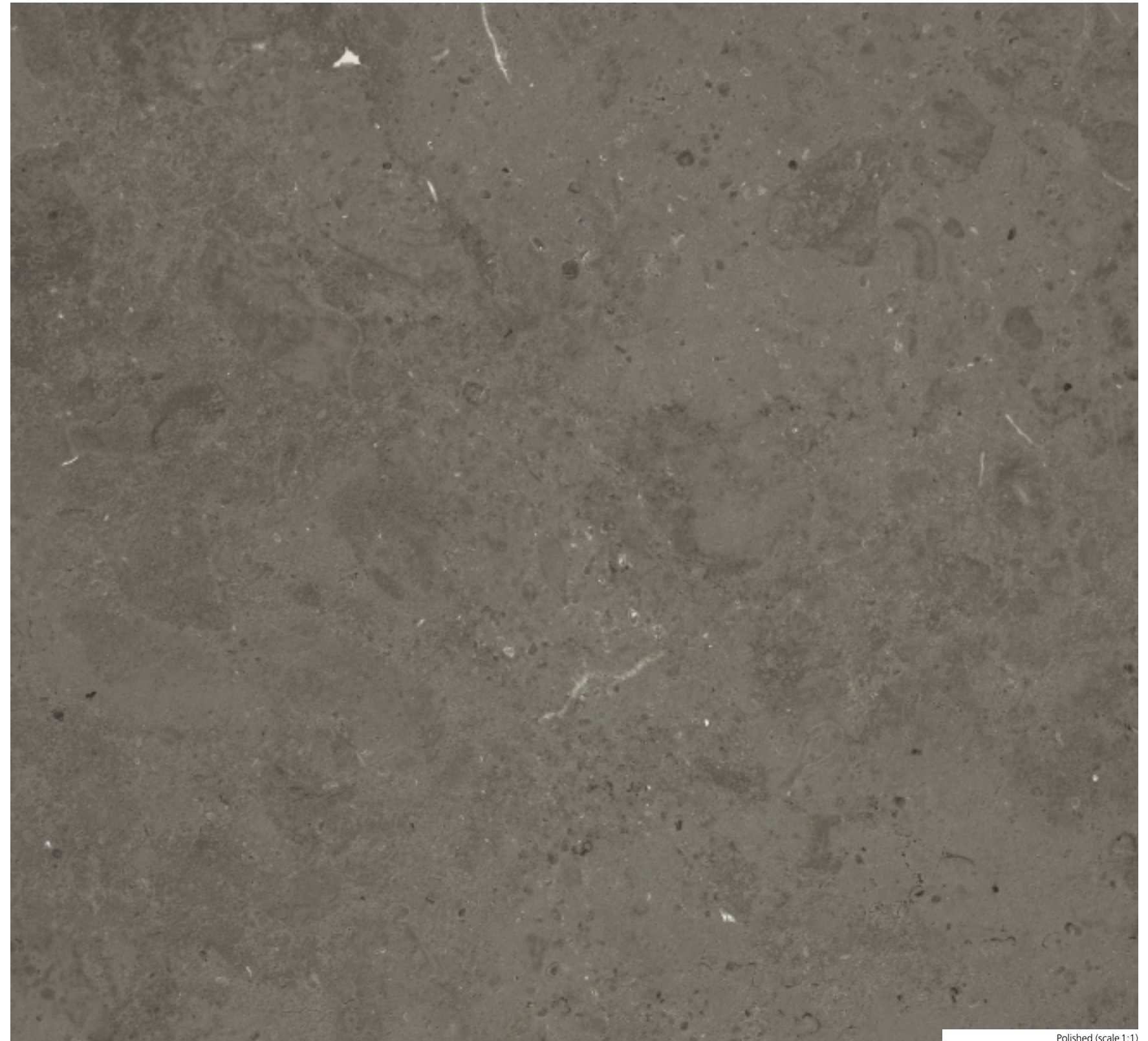
Floor tiles

length 30-50 cm, width 15-50 cm, thickness 2-4 cm
free length, width 15/20/25/30/40/50 cm

Doorsteps

width 18/20/22/25 cm, thickness 5 cm

It is not advisable to order a surface area of over 0.5 m² and a length over 1.2 m. For anything above these sizes, it is necessary to take specific measures when the stone is being applied. Non-standard sizes may be asked on direct request to the producer.



Polished (scale 1:1)

> Longpré limestone belongs to the range of limestones from the Meuse region, which was formerly quarried on a large scale from the Meuse river valley, between Namur and Liège. It is a very pure crinoid limestone from the Lower Visean geological era, (V1a, Lower Carboniferous, Palaeozoic). Granular in structure, it contains shells and is streaked with numerous remains of crinoids. Indeed, this limestone, which is of excellent quality, displays scatterings of

crinoids which show up mid-grey in colour on the stones light grey background, delicately toned with beige. Frost-resistant and not very sensitive to atmospheric pollution, this stone lends itself to almost every carved and marble finish traditionally given to blue stones, which share very similar technical characteristics. When used for exteriors, the rubble stones, flooring tiles, dressed stones or thin coverings acquire an almost white patina, typical of

stone from the Meuse, due to its high chalk content. When given a marble type of finish, Longpré limestone takes on an excellent polish, mid or dark grey in colour, which is admired for its uniformity. It may be used to make small items, as well as traditionally-crafted products, pieces of furniture, stairs, etc.



Brussels - Apartment, arch. M. Corblau - 2000