



# THE THIN GUIDE

THE FABRICATOR'S COMPLETE GUIDE  
TO WORKING WITH NATURAL THIN  
STONE

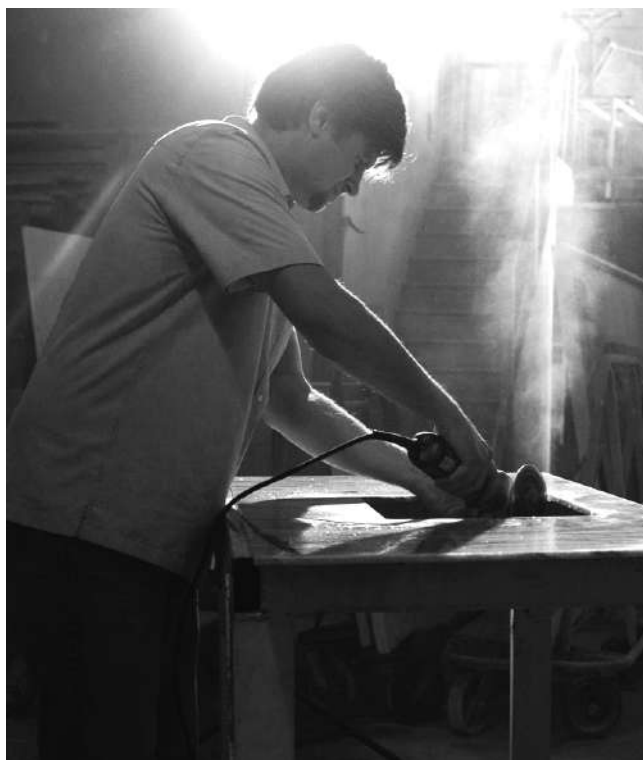


**POLYCOR**

## TRADITIONAL STONE, MODERN SLAB

Ultra-thin reinforced slabs really aren't new material. It's the same natural granite and marble you've been cutting for years, just lighter and stronger, with a more modern aesthetic.

— *Once I got a slab into the shop and saw how cleanly it cut and how much less time it took to polish, a flood of ideas for projects came to mind.*



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Schrenk is a former fabricator and installer with 20 years working with natural stone. Now as brand manager for Polycor, Steve travels to fabrication shops and kitchen and bath showrooms across the northeast writing about all things stone on Polycor's blog.

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# WHAT IS POLYCOR'S THIN STONE?

**10x** TIMES STRONGER,  
TWO THIRDS LIGHTER

Thin Stone is an ultra-thin reinforced slab of natural stone, cut down to 1 cm thickness, approximately 3/8" actual. Thin Stone slabs are available in all of Polycor's granites and marbles, each weighing 2/3 less than traditional 3 cm slabs.

1 cm slabs are backed with a proprietary reinforcement that gives the natural stone a flexural strength 10 times that of thicker, unbacked granite or marble. On installations, around corners, on walls, floors and countertops, the material is





See the thinness of the material yourself in this video, as a fabricator cuts, polishes and moves a 1 cm countertop in his NY stone shop.

[Watch the video here](#)

# HOW TO HANDLE IT

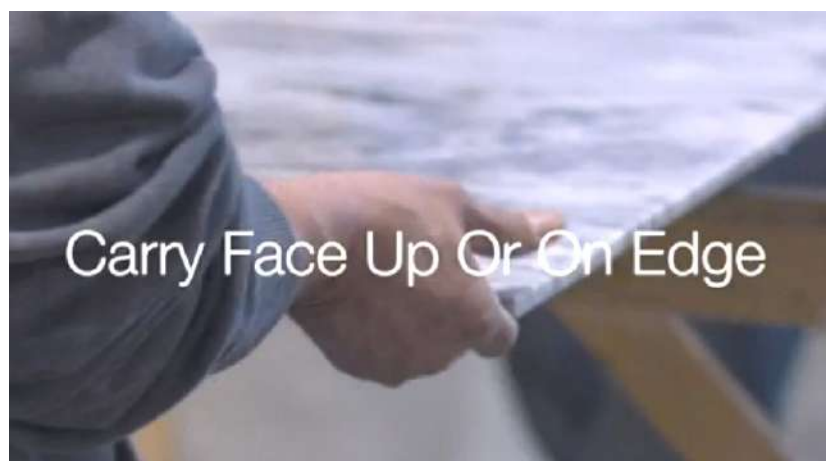
On edge, or flat with the face up.

***Yes, you can carry Thin Stone flat, even a full slab.***



The strong composite backing means slabs can be carried flat, **with the reinforced side down.**

And because a Thin Stone slab is a fraction of a 3 cm slab's weight, you won't need to pull six guys out of the shop to install it.



# HOW TO FABRICATE IT



THERE ARE NO SPECIAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR WORKING WITH 1 CM SLABS.

You can fabricate Thin Stone with typical shop tooling and stoneworking techniques. Use your usual tools for cutting, grinding, polishing and finishing.

The difference will be less time to complete the job and less wear on the tools themselves.





1 cm stone cuts cleanly and because of its slim profile, preserves blade life significantly over 2 and 3 cm stone.

You'll get more precise cuts with the same blade when cutting Thin Stone.

Match the blade to the material and cut at a slightly slower traverse speed than you would for a 2 cm stone.

You'll want to use plenty of water to cool the blade and prevent any chipping.



# WALL INSTALLATION METHODS



## **Install before or after wall cabinetry or shelving.**

If stone is going up before cabinets, it's easy to install cabinetry and hoods, open shelving and other decorative elements right over the slab, predrilling for hardware to pass through and catch framing.

*With less weight, it's easier to get up over base cabinets and around uppers or all the way up to the ceiling line.*

**Substrate** – Use cement backer units (CBUs) installed according to manufacturer's specifications or Gypsum wallboard (GWB), in dry interior areas, primed with a multipurpose acrylic latex, ensuring it's as flat as possible (max. 1/16" in 24").

# WALL SURFACE PREP

**Adhesives** – We recommend using a two-component cementitious mortar such as Laticrete Latapoxy, Mapei Kerapoxy or Granirapid.

**Troweling methods** – Trowel in the shortest direction, perpendicular to the longest dimension of the slab. Use a larger notched trowel that ensures maximum mortar coverage between substrate and slab. Apply mortar to the substrate and the back of the slab, troweling both in the same direction, avoiding air pockets.

Mechanical edge-levelling systems will help eliminate lippage.

Tamp slabs with a rubber grout float to ensure a good bond.



## BEFORE YOU PUT IT UP, GET THE SPECS

DOWNLOAD LATICRETE'S COMPLETE  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR:

- Expansion joints
- Self-leveling underlayment
- Uncoupling membrane
- Detailed installation instructions

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD SPECS](#)

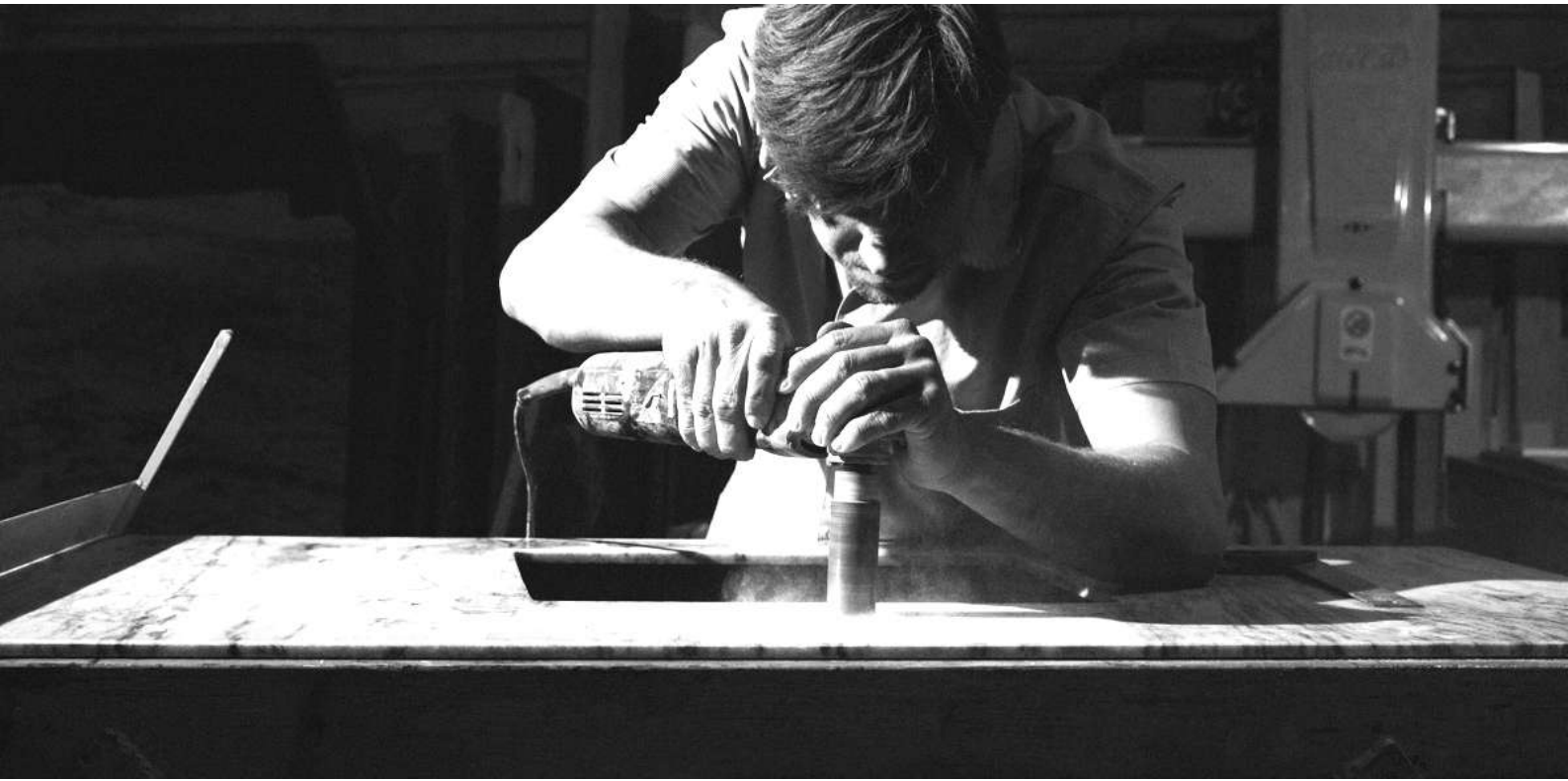
DOWNLOAD



Drill right through the stone face without worrying about cracking.

Since it's only 3/8" thick, catching framing members with hardware is easy, and without having to cut around cabinets there's less seaming and no worries about matching veining.

# COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION METHODS



—

You can forget the plywood or cement board.

There's no need for a continuous substrate.

Finished countertops can be installed directly over the open cabinet boxes and secured with a bead of silicone or construction adhesive.

## THICK OR THIN EDGES ARE BOTH POSSIBLE USING ULTRA-THIN STONE SLABS.

Standard edges such as eased, ¼” round, ½” bullnose or full bullnose, micro bevel, ⅛” or ¼” bevel work well with this material. Flat lamination or miter built up edges are also ideal for 1cm thin slabs.

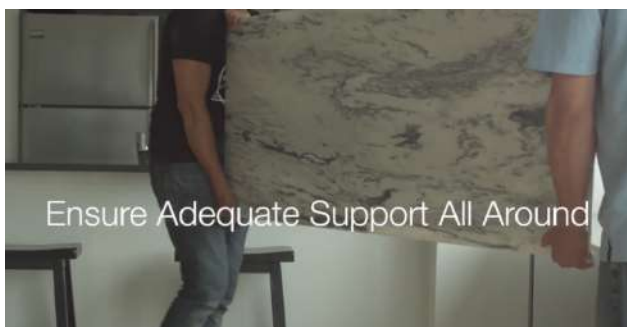
When gluing up miters, add some glue blocks to the backside of the edge for greater contact of the adhesive.

If the edge is mitered very thick, it's a good practice to add foam blanks to hold up the top off the cabinetry.

Another chance to save weight and still get a 3 cm or 5 cm edge.



MAX 24” SPANS BETWEEN SUPPORTS.



### ENSURE EQUAL SUPPORT ALL AROUND.

Although we've done up to 4 inches in tests with good results, we recommend limiting your overhangs to 2 inches.

For greater overhangs, use supports or corbels.

SPOTLIGHT

# JOBSITE TIPS



The lighter, stronger stone gives you added flexibility on the job site to safely cut and make adjustments for off measurements, drill for plumbing or outlets.

## CUT OUTS IN ONE SHOT.

If you typically work with 1¼” material, you’re used to making multiple plunge cuts and completing the cuts from the back. With 1 cm, you can make one cut straight through the face.

- Easily make cuts on site to adjust for wall irregularity, outlets, fixtures and rough-in plumbing or to cut and polish edges quickly.
- Use undermount sink kits instead of anchoring directly into the underside of the stone, just like with oversize and heavy cast iron or stainless sinks.



NO BACK CUTTING.



Easy To Cut, Fabricate And Install

### EASIER INSTALLS

With 2 cm, and 3 cm you spend half your time figuring out how you’re going to get the finished pieces into place.
















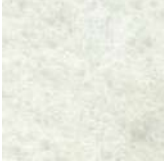
This material is much more forgiving.

SPOTLIGHT

# THIN STONE VARIETIES



1 CM IS AVAILABLE IN ALL OF POLYCOR'S MARBLES AND GRANITES

							
	Caledonia	Cambrian Black	Kodiak Brown	Laurentian Green	American Black	Barre Gray	
GRANITE							
	Nordic Black	Saint Henry Black	Titanium Pearl	Picasso	Stanstead Grey	Bethel White	
	MARBLE						
		Solar Grey	Pearl Grey	White Cherokee	White Georgia		

And more!



# APPLICATIONS



## 1 CM THIN STONE IS IDEAL FOR:

- Countertops
- Full backsplashes
- Full wall fireplace surrounds
- Showers
- Tub surrounds
- Desks
- Tables
- Full slab floors and walls

# FINAL THOUGHTS



Designers and homeowners love Thin Stone because it gives them a sleek, contemporary aesthetic with bigger proportions and more opportunities to specify natural stone in a project.

You'll love that it's lighter, quicker to finish and more forgiving.



IF A DESIGNER ASKS YOU TO FABRICATE  
USING POLYCOR'S THIN STONE,  
YOU'LL KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR:

- LESS WEIGHT, GREATER DURABILITY
- EASIER, FASTER INSTALLATION AND FABRICATION
- LESS WEAR AND TEAR ON YOUR TOOLS

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

[DOWNLOAD THE 1 CM THIN STONE SPEC SHEET  
HERE.](#)



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[www.polycor.com](http://www.polycor.com)