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Dating back to around 500 BC, cast stone is a mix of crushed stone that has been compressed under extreme pressure into a pre-designed shape or form to create a man-made limestone. We call it hand-forged stone. A similar technique is used in metal casting.

This technique is very similar to building sand castles by pressing moist sand into a bucket, only on a much grander, more permanent scale.

The final result of the process is a hand-forged limestone that is very difficult to distinguish from natural limestone.

The primary difference between cast stone and natural stone is cast stone's ability to be formed into complex shapes and designs while maintaining the strength characteristics of natural stone. We can even match the colors of another material, something natural stone can never do.

How long will cast stone last?

Structures from the Roman Empire built using cast stone parts are still in existence today, more than 2000 years later. It is difficult to state just how long a cast stone part will last.



Limitations of Cast Stone



Cast Stone is not a structural material, it is designed for architectural features and is always tied to and supported by the structure behind.

Individual stones are never more than 15 times the least dimension, generally never less than 2" thick nor more than 36" long.

Cast Stone Vs. Natural Limestone?

When comparing cast stone products to quarried stone, three factors need to be taken into consideration: Time, Cost and Durability.

Cost

When using cast stone, the major cost is in making the original form and the first stone. Subsequent stones from the same tooling can be made for as much as 30% less than the cost of natural stone.

Stone Legends' greatest assets are complex shapes and the crispness of detail.

Our advantage comes from the vast experience of our craftsmen and artisans. Each stone is handmade, maximizing the versatility of low yield quantities.



Time

When considering the production time for stone products, it is important to remember that natural stone is hand carved. When making stone parts with intricate design work, such as a Corinthian capital, the same amount of time is involved in reproducing each individual part.

When using cast stone, time involved with creating the original design work is limited to the first stone produced. Replication is then easier, faster and more cost effective than in natural stone.



Comparing cast stone to other building products

Product Type	Minimum Standard PSI	Air Content	Absorption Maximum
Dry Cast Stone	6500	0	6%
Wet Pour Stone	6500	4-8%	6%
Architectural Precast	500	4-6%	6%
Natural Limestone	4000 (Grade II)	0	7.5%
Brick	3500-5500	0	15-18%

Specifications from Cast Stone Institute