

## **Handling and Stacking of Quartz and Engineered Marble Slabs During Transportation from Factory to Site**

Proper handling and stacking of quartz and engineered marble slabs is essential to prevent damage, maintain finish quality, and ensure safety. Follow the below guidelines from factory dispatch to site delivery:

### **1. Stacking on Stands (A-Frames):-**

- \* Use sturdy **A-frames or slab stands** specifically designed for transporting stone slabs.
- \* When stacking, ensure the **overhang portion of the slab is equal on both ends** of the stand to maintain balance.
- \* Stack an **equal number of slabs on both sides** of the A-frame to ensure structural stability.
- \* Stack slabs **vertically at a slight angle (10–15°)** to reduce stress and prevent tipping.
- \* Always place the **backside of the slab outward** on the topmost slab to shield the polished surface from sunlight and contaminants.

### **2. Handling and Lifting Equipment:-**

- \* Use **vacuum lifters**, **mechanical slab clamps**, or **forklifts with boom arms** to safely lift and move slabs.
- \* Avoid manual lifting for large or heavy slabs unless using a trained team with proper tools.
- \* Ensure proper **rigging and lifting techniques** are followed to prevent accidents or breakage.
- \* Never drag slabs; always lift them fully clear of surfaces.

### **3. Protection and Storage Conditions:-**

- \* Slabs must be **stacked under a covered shed or shelter** to avoid exposure to weather.
- \* Do not allow slabs to come in direct contact with sunlight at any stage—sunlight can cause discoloration, thermal stress, or warping.

\* During transportation and temporary site storage, \*\*cover slabs with UV-resistant tarpaulins\*\* or protective sheeting.

\* Avoid storing slabs in open, unshaded, or wet areas.

#### **4. Transportation:-**

\* Secure A-frames firmly to the transport vehicle using heavy-duty ratchet straps or clamps.

\* Use \*\*edge guards and corner protectors\*\* to avoid chipping during transit.

\* Maintain a safe driving speed and avoid sudden braking or rough terrain to prevent slab movement or breakage.

\* Check stability of slabs at each major stop or delivery point.

#### **5. Unloading and On-Site Storage:-**

\* Use appropriate lifting equipment for unloading; never manually tip or slide slabs from the vehicle.

\* Store slabs on \*\*flat, level surfaces\*\* using A-frames or slab storage racks.

\* Ensure the site storage area is \*\*dry, shaded, and well-ventilated\*\*, with protection from dust and debris.

\* Avoid stacking slabs directly on concrete or soil—use wooden pallets or rubber mats beneath the frames.

#### **6. Safety Guidelines:-**

\* All personnel must wear \*\*Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)\*\* including gloves, safety footwear, helmets, and eye protection.

\* Only trained and authorized workers should handle slab stacking and lifting.

\* Keep hands and body clear of slab edges and never stand in the path of moving or unstable slabs.

\* Mark and barricade slab handling areas to prevent accidents or unauthorized access.