



## Glossary of Terms: Monument and Cemetery

Monuments can be finished in a variety of ways. Like any industry, the monument industry has its own jargon used to describe its products. Definitions of the common monument finishes are listed below.

**POLISHED SURFACES** are smooth and shiny. After granite blocks are quarried, they are sawn into slabs of the desired thickness. The sawn surfaces are then polished firstly with a coarse abrasive, then successively finer abrasives until perfectly smooth. The final shiny finish is achieved with a buffing process that uses an extremely fine abrasive. Most monuments have at least some polished areas.

**ROCK PITCHED** are rough, rock surfaces that have been pitched by hand using a hammer and chisel to achieve a finished, consistent rock effect.

**SAWN SIDES** are smooth, but may have lines in the finish from the saw blade, and are generally used only for surfaces that will not be visible after the monument is installed.

**HONED SURFACES** are surfaces that been partially polished. They are not shiny but are very smooth. They are rarely used - their primary application is the provide decorative contrast to polished areas.



**STIPPLED** surfaces appear as small white “dimples” caused by stunning the surface with a small pointed tool.

**STEELED SURFACES** are smooth surfaces that have been sandblasted using steel shot, which gives a bright, white, textured finish.

**DUSTED SURFACES** are smooth surfaces that have been sandblasted using abrasive grit. It is a more common treatment than steeling, and returns a similar texture, but it is not as bright. Both dusting and steeling are used for exposed monument surfaces where polished or rock pitched effects are not desired. A very common application for both treatments is the contrasting panel behind sandblasted lettering on memorials.



### Common Monument Finish Abbreviations

- BRP = Balanced Rock Pitched
- P1 = Polished 1 surface only
- P2, BRP = (Used for Dies) Polished front and back, top and ends are rock pitched
- P3, BRP = (Used for Dies) Polished front, back, and top with rock pitched ends
- P5 (or AP) = All 5 exposed surfaces are polished. AP stands for “All Polished”
- PFT BRP = (Used for Bases and Grass Markers) Polished flat top with remaining exposed sides being rock pitched
- PFT SS = (Used for Grass Markers) Polished flat top with remaining exposed sides being sawn
- PSF = (Used for Slants) The front slant face is polished

## Words Used in Reference to Burial Grounds & Tombs

**Cemetery** – Any area set aside for the burial of the dead; also stems from the Latin meaning of “sleeping place.”

**Crypt** – An enclosure for a casket in a mausoleum or in an area entirely or partly underground; from the Latin word meaning “hidden.” In Europe the word refers primarily to burial places in or under churches.

**Mausoleum** – A building or structure for above-ground burial. It was also named for Mausolos, a king in ancient Asia Minor whose wife, Artemisis, had an elaborate, above-ground tomb erected to his memory in 350 B.C. at Halicarnassus.

**Memorial** – A structure designed to perpetuate the memory of a person or event; from the Latin word “to remember.” “Memorial” is commonly used to refer to a gravestone or monument.

**Monument** – A structure erected as a memorial; from the Latin word “monere,” meaning “to remind.” Technically, the monument serves as the memorial.

**Tomb** – Another term for a burial place; from the Greek word meaning “to remember.”

**Vault** – A burial chamber usually found underground.

### Words used in the Monument Trade

**Abrasive** – Product that does the cutting in the sandblasting process (the sand). Abrasives come in a variety of forms, such as zirconia alundum “stoneblast” and calcined bauxite “sinterball.”

**Apex** – The highest point of a monument where the four sides are tapered together. This word stems from the Latin for “top” or “summit.”

**Band** – Any continuous strip or section on a monument which can be raised, flat, recessed or carved. A band is often used as a nameplate.

**Base** – The lower part or parts of a multi-sectioned monument. There may be a first, second and third base.

**Bas-relief** – Any sculpturing that projects minimally from the background. The word “bas” is from the Latin, meaning “base” or “low.”

**Bed** – The flat, top portion of any monument base which is cut to fit the bottom (joint) of the tablet, or main part of the monument.

**Belts/slings** – Nylon straps used for the lifting of memorials.

**Bevel marker** – A rectangular, angled or sloped-top marker.

**Blued** – A term that describes the deepened color given to a monument by an abrasive used in sandblasting.

**Bottom jointed** – The bottom of the tablet, or main part of the monument, leveled and squared for final mounting on the base.

**BRP - Balanced Rock Pitched**

Beautiful rocky texture. Represented in our drawings with multiple uneven lines - usually found on base pictures.

**Bruise** – Means the same in stone as a bruise on the body - any marring of the surface of a stone by a blow; also called a stun.

**Buffing** – Applying the final touch to the stone's polished surface.

**CAD program** – This is generally defined as a “Computer Aided Design” program. They are available from a number of different software packages.

**Canopy** – Literally means “to overhang” and refers to any roof-like outcropping. A canopy is usually supported by columns.

**Cap** – The uppermost portion of a monument set on top of a tablet. There may be more than one piece to a cap.

**Capital** – From the Latin, meaning “head;” the top part of any pilaster or column.

**Carving** – The process of shaping stone to the desired effect; includes sandblast, sculptural, shape, line and hand carving.

**Chamfer** – A beveled or tapered edge made by cutting away of square edge on a monument.

**Check** – A cut or recess in the stone, normally on the top or ends; a rabbet-shaped cutting.

**Chipped** – Means exactly what it says – small chips mar the edge of a stone.

**Columbarium** – A vault with niches for urns containing ashes of the dead.

**Columnar** – An orderly arrangement of single or double columns on a monument.

**Column** – Any pillar consisting of a base, a cylindrical shaft and a capital or crown. There are five types of columns – sometimes referred to as the five orders of architecture. The five orders differ in the proportions of their columns and in richness of their ornamentation. These orders have long been called the *Tuscan Order, Doric Order, Ionic Order,*

*Corinthian Order and the Composite Order.* The Doric, Ionic and Corinthian orders are the most important since they are in more general use.

**Doric** – The most simple and the oldest of all column designs. Named for the Dorians, who created it on the Aegean Islands, the Doric order originally had heavy, fluted columns with no base and plain, saucer-like capitals. The cornice was bold and simple. The Romans eventually modified this to as we know it today.

**Ionic** – Another classical Greek column that was modified by the Romans, the Ionic order originally was topped by two opposing volutes or scroll-like ornaments on the capital or crown. Ionic flutes differ from Doric flutes in that they are beveled.

**Corinthian** – The most ornate of the three Greco-Roman orders. As originally designed by the Greeks, it had a slender, fluted column with a highly ornate bell-shaped capital decorated with acanthus leaves. The Romans altered this design slightly as well.

**Composite** – The composite capital is a mixture of elements of the Ionic and Corinthian capitals. Its forms and general proportions are like those of the Corinthian Order. There are two banks of leaves placed as in the Corinthian, but the upper part uses Ionic Capital volutes placed at an angle.

**Tuscan** – The most simple of the five orders. Comparatively few lines are required to express its component parts.

The five orders have one proportion in common, **viz.** Viz is the relation of the height of the column to the height of the entablature. The entablature in all five orders is one quarter the column height. The height of the column in any order is, therefore, the height of four entablatures, and the height of the entablature, although a variable quantity will always bear a certain relation to the general height of the order.

**Concave** – A curve matching the inner surface of a sphere.

**Convex** – The opposite of concave; any cut matching the outer surface of a sphere.

**Coping** – Any low stone arrangement outlining the limits of a burial lot; also called curbing.

**Cremation or cinerary urn** – A delicate urn used to hold the remains of a cremated body. Cinerary is from the Latin, meaning “dust” or “ashes.” The place where such urns are kept is called a cineraria.

**Cubical content** – Total number of cubic feet and inches in a piece of stone, cut or uncut.

**Curbing** – The placing of a stone curb or low enclosure around a cemetery burial lot.

**Design** – A sketch or picture of an artist's concept of a specially designed monument.

**Die** – The primary body portion of any monument whether large or small. This term is being replaced by the words “tablet” or “screen.”

**Digitizer** – Part of the computer program that can read the details of the drawing to put the design into a readable form prior to sending to the plotter or the printer for review.

**Dowel** – A pin designed to hold two joints of stone together. They are usually made of a strong noncorrosive metal, such as stainless steel or aluminum.

**Drainage holes** – Openings drilled in any section of a monument or vase where it is necessary to carry off water.

**Drop** – the amount of space between the highest and lowest point of the bevel or other parts of a monument.

**End members** – Horizontal series of moldings on the ends of a monument.

**Entablature** – The cornice and roof section which rests on the caps of all columns; from the Latin word meaning “table.”

**Epitaph** – Any inscription or text on a monument in memory of the person or persons interred there. From the Latin meaning “funeral oration,” an epitaph should state something about the deceased.

**Epoxy** – A thermosetting resin used as a strong adhesive to permanently attach two items together.

**Etching** – Most commonly referred to when drawing portraits or scenes on memorials. Also known as diamond etching, laser etching or color etching when various colors are added to the scene or portrait.

**Face** – The front of any monument or the forward portion of a slant-face marker.

**F, B & T** – Referring to the face of a monument, the back and the top. Often describes the sides of a monument that are polished.

**Flat carving** – Any line carving on the surface of stone; also called “skin carving.”

**Frost** – To remove the polish and leave a matte finish; also called “dust” or “skin.”

**Full-size detail** – A full size sketch of a monument or part of a monument, showing it exactly as it is to appear when finished.

**Gable top** – The roof-like top of any monument that is sometimes referred to as a “two-way top” or “rooftop.”

**Gothic top** – The top of a monument that rounds gracefully to a peak on the exact centerline. The Goths are said to have originated the pointed arch.

**Gold leaf** – A thin layer of gold that is applied to the memorial usually to enhance the lettering or to accent a carving.

**Grass marker** – A small, flat piece of stone or metal set with or approximately with the level of the ground. Also called a lawn-level marker – an outdated term is flush marker.

**Grout** – The discarded materials created while quarrying rock.

**Hammer** – Refers to the hand or pneumatic tool with a multi-pointed head. These chisels are used to axe, dress or hammer the surface of a stone.

**Head grain** – Stone, like wood, is grained. The head grain in stone is most desired for the finished face, like the end grain in wood.

**High relief** – The opposite of Bas-relief or low relief. In high relief, the projecting figures or carvings extend outward at least half as much as their circumference.

**JB – Jet Black** – Our most popular black granite color.

**Joint** – Any surface where one piece of stone has been dressed and cut to fit another. Normally used to designate the bottom of the main part of the monument.

**Keystone** – The important, wedge-shaped stone set at the apex of an arch to hold all other stones in place.

**Ledger** – A memorial stone laid prone and covering all or most of the grave.

**Lift** – To understand this term, you must also understand "rift" and "head grain." The lift is the grain in stone that runs at right angles to the rift, which is the direction in which the stone splits easiest.

**Lithichrome** – A liquid that can be sprayed onto panels or carvings or into letters to enhance or change the natural contrast or color. A variety of shades and colors are available.

**Margin** – The extreme outer portion of any stone piece, which is given a contrasting finish for effect. Can be sawn, steeled, hammered or polished.

**Marker** – A headstone, usually small, used to identify individuals.

**Mausoleum** – Any above ground structure used for burials. Named for king Mausolos of Caria, His wife, Artemis, built one of history's first such tombs in about 350 B.C.

**Memorial** – Technically, a structure that reminds us of a specific event or person. Therefore, a monument serves as a memorial, but in daily use, monuments are called memorials.

**Nosings** – Used in two ways: on monuments, it refers to any cut or additional stone projecting out beyond the main surface line. On slant markers, it can refer to either the top or front.

**Obelisk** – From the Greek, meaning a pointed pillar. Any tall, four-sided spire that tapers to a pyramidal point.

**Ogee** – A double curve in the shape of an elongated "S."

**Ornament** – The various symbols, sculpture, carving, decorations (floral and otherwise) used to convey messages and to enhance a design.

**Outline, frosted** – Describes letters formed by lines sandblasted on a finished surface. The letters are frosted and outlined with a recessed line around the letter.

**Oval top** – Any monument or marker with the top arched as a segment of a circle.

**Panel** – A flat section of any monument that is set apart by raising, recessing or framing that is usually used to contain a name or inscription.

**Pattern** – Primarily used to cut a piece of stone to the desired shape. Also used to describe the specific form of any rough block of stone.

**Pedestal** – From the Latin word meaning “foot;” the base of any urn, statue, etc.

**PFT – Polished Flat Top** – This means that the top surface of a base or marker is polished

**Pillar** – A column to support a structure or to serve as a monument; see column.

**Pitching (rock-pitching)** – The cutting or chipping away of rough stone to a predetermined and marked line.

**Plotter** – The machine used to receive the drawing from the computer to show the details of the memorial layout for the client or to cut the stencil that will be used for the memorial.

**Plinth** – From the Greek meaning “stone block.” A stone slab or block, usually square or rectangular, upon which a pedestal, column, tablet, screen or statue is placed.

**PMG – Polished Margin** – A margin is measured in inches and is a polished portion of the granite on the top of a base or marker.

**Polished** – Term used to describe the high gloss finish on a monument.

**P1 – One surface is polished** – We refer to a monument that has one of its surfaces polished P1. In this case, it is usually the front of the monument.

**P2 – Two surfaces are polished** – We refer to a monument that has two of its surfaces polished P2. An example of a P2 would be a Serp Top with a polished front and back.

**P3 – Three surfaces are polished** – We refer to a monument that has three of its surfaces polished P3. An example of a P3 would be a Serp Top with a polished front, top and back.

**P5 or 'All Polished' – Five surfaces are polished** – We refer to a monument that has five (in some cases, all) of its surfaces polished P5 .An example of a P5 would be a Serp Top with a polished front, top and back and sides.

**P8 – All polished with chamfers** – A monument that is all polished, (front, top, back, sides) and has chamfers would be a P8.

**Proportion** – That vital allocation of space on a monument which determines its final appearance; a harmonizing of spaces, lettering and ornaments.



**Raised band** – A running, raised strip on a monument that often contains the name and dates.

**Raised letters** – A particular style of letter that is accomplished by removing the area around the letter and making it raised from the surface.

**Relief** – The projection of carved figures, floral decor, symbols, etc., from the flat surface of a monument.

**Rough stock** – Unfinished rock in the form which is delivered from the quarry.

**Round raised letters** – A particular style of lettering that is similar to the raised letters except that all edges are carved to leave a semi-circle (half-round) on the letter. It could be accomplished within a panel or just raised from the balance of the memorial.

**Rounds** – Any stone edge rounded like the outside portion of a circle.

**Rubbing** – The process of tracing the lettering and design on the face of a monument by rubbing crayon or the like over paper.

**Sandblast** – In general terms, a machine that mixes abrasive and air pressure in a controlled manner. It is the most common process used to carve and letter memorials.

**Sarcophagus** – Term for any hewn, massive coffin of stone or any large memorial with an area for a casket.

**Sawed** – Sides are smooth and unfinished (not polished)

**Scanner** – A tool that can enter text, photos or images of objects in the computer system to create designs for memorials and other projects.

**Screen carving** – A very old practice of using a screen to sandblast deep, symmetrical pits into a surface; also called lace carving.

**Screen panel carving** – Forming a defined panel by setting it apart with a screened background.

**Scroll** – An ornamental design that resembles a partially rolled scroll; also a term used for the inscription plate on a bronze marker.

**Sculpture** – From the Latin word meaning “to carve;” shaping stone to any predetermined form.

**Seam** – Any slight, almost unseen crack in a stone's surface.

**Serp – Serpentine** – Any surface or molding cut to resemble the S-like motion of a serpent.

**Setting compound** – Used to form the seal between the tablet and base or other joints of the monument that must be sealed to keep water out. This product is not an adhesive.

**Setting cushions** – Used as spacers between joints when setting; most commonly made of plastic.

**SG – Super Gray** – Our most popular granite color, Super Gray.

**Shell rock** – Rock pitching by removing large pieces of stone and leaving a shell-like appearance; requires the skill of a stonemason familiar with the grain of the stone.

**Shoulder** – Any projection that rises above the surface; corresponds to "check" or "rabbet."

**Skin carving** – Any shallow carving on the skin or surface of a monument that is executed by removing the polish; has no depth.

**Slant** – Name for a marker with an extreme slant face and usually with a nosing at either the top or bottom, or both.

**Spawl** – Any large piece of chipped rock that is normally thrown away.

**Square** – A tool used to assure that corners of stone are cut square.

**Steeled** – The surface of any stone that is ground with steel shot, resulting in a smooth, unpolished and matte finish; also referred to as "dusting."

**Stencil** – A sheet of rubber material affixed to the stone onto which the design has been transferred and then cut out to expose portions of the stone for sandblasting.

**Stock** – Any piece of rough, quarried stone from which a marker or monument is made; also the inventory of monuments held by a memorialist.

**Straight edge** – A long, narrow tool made of either wood or metal, with a straight edge for testing or drawing straight lines.

**Stun** – Any imperfection on the stone surface caused by a blow, which creates a below-the-surface fracture.

**Symbolism** – The symbolic meaning of the many figures and designs used on monuments.

**Tablet or screen** – The die, tablet or screen is the main part of any monument. Any finished monument without lettering or ornament.

**Taper** – The gradual decrease in thickness or width of a monument or marker. The taper is normally toward the top although reverse taper is not unusual.

**Turned work** – Any circular-shaped memorial piece such as column, vase, ball, etc.

**V-sunk letters** – A particular style of letter that uses a carver's chisel to create the letter by cutting into a "V" shape in the stone.

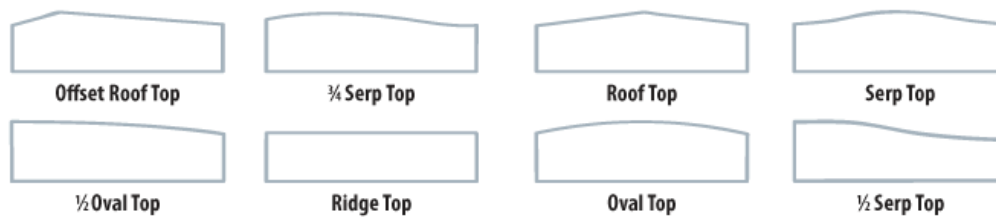
**Vertical joint** – Any point at which two pieces of a monument meet vertically.

**Vertical type** – General term for any taller, upright monument, as opposed to the lower, horizontal type.

**Wash or drop wash** – A beveled surface making up the exposed portion of the upper edge of a monument base. That is designed to assure water run-off.

**Wings** – Stones extending outward from the main body of a monument.

## Standard Top Designs



## Memorial Types

- Flat Marker, or Flush Marker - Flat stone placed in front of a family memorial or individually to mark a grave. A Marker is lettered and usually carved.
- Upright Monument, Tablet or Die - Upright tablet that is lettered and/or carved. The top piece of a traditional two-piece memorial.
- Pillow or Hickey Marker - Similar to Marker except it has a slight slope from back to front. Most Pillow Markers drop approximately 2" from back to front.
- Slant - Similar to an Upright tablet with the face cut at a steep angle.
- Bench - comprised of Seat and Supports (2-Leg Supports or a Single Die Support).
- Monubench – combination of monument and bench
- Base - The bottom piece of a memorial upon which a tablet is placed.
- Vase - Vases are tapered with finishes matching those of the Tablet or round turned vases are usually polished.
- Vase Blocks –Used separate from the memorial to contain a metal vase
- Ledger - A flat memorial, covering most or all of the grave space.

## Monument Profiles

- Serp - Serpentine Top, top of Tablet is raised slightly (1 or 2 inches) in the center.
- Flat - Flat Top, top of Tablet is flat.
- Oval - Oval Top, top of Tablet is rounded.
- Gable or Roof Top - Top of Tablet is high in the center and drops approximately 2" towards the ends.
- Apex - Apex Top, top of Tablet is high in the center and all four sides come up to a single point as a pyramid.

## Finishes

- Polished - The surface of the stone is ground with finer and finer abrasives until it reaches a high gloss.
- Steeled - The surface of the stone is blasted or ground with Steel Shot until it reaches a flat textured surface.
- Honed - The surface of the stone is ground with abrasives until it reaches a smooth surface but has not gloss.
- Rock Pitch - This is a very rough surface, it is the natural fracture of the stone.

## Finished Surfaces

- P2 - Polished two sides: front and back.
- P3 - Polished three sides: front, back and top.
- P5 or All Polished - Polished five sides: front, back, top and both ends.
- P4 - Polished four sides: front, back and both ends. Example: bench legs.
- \*Note: The same type of designation is used for other finishes. Example: S2 - Steeled two sides: front and back.

## Other Finishes

- BRP - Balance Rock Pitch
- BS - Balance sawn
- SS - Sawn Sides
- PFT - Polished Flat Top
- SFT - Steeled Fat Top
- PBT - Polished Bevel Top
- PSF - Polished Slant Face
- FN - Front Nosing; the finished portion on the bottom front of a Standard Slant
- NFN - No Front Nosing; the polished slant face continues to the bottom, referred to as Western Slant
- Margin - Polished or Sawn border around the top of a Base or Pillow Marker, usually one to two inches in height
- Pencil Round - A slight radius either polished or honed around the top of a marker

## Carving

- Shape Carving - Technique used to create a three-dimensional appearance making the floral carving appear life like.
- Flat Carving - Outlines are sandblasted around the floral carving while the surfaces of the blooms and leaves are left flat.
- Stencil - Lettering and Designs are cut into rubber stencil that is designed to resist the sandblast. Exposed stone is etched by the sand resulting in the transfer of the lettering and design to the surface of the stone.

## Panels

- No Panel - Lettering is cut directly into the polished or steeled surface of the stone.
- Frosted Panel - The area within the border of the panel is lightly sandblasted. This process generally lightens the color of the stone creating a contrast between the panel and the surrounding surface.
- Polished Panel - The area within the border of the panel remains polished.
- Single V-Line Panel - Two V-lines are etched into the stone creating a double border around a family name or inscription panel.

## Lettering

- Sandblast V-Sunk - Deep sandblasted letter; sandblasted until back of the letter forms a "V."
- Skin Cut - Shallow sandblasted letter: the sandblast just breaks the surface of the stone.
- Frosted Outline - The surface of the letter is lightly sandblasted and a deep outline is etched around it.
- Raised Letters - The area around the letters is sandblasted away leaving the letters raised above the background.
- Font - Lettering Style. The mostly widely used is Modified Roman V-Sunk.
- Litho - A coloring material sprayed into the lettering and carving to create an artificial shadow. Litho is available in a variety of colors, however Black is the most widely used. It is not permanent!
- No Litho - Term used to indicate that no artificial coloring is to be sprayed in the lettering or carving. Note: On lighter colored granites lettering cut in the polish with no panel will not be legible without some litho for contrast.

## Flat Marker Edges

- Polished Oval Bevel – 2” polished oval shaped bevel edge around border of flat marker
- Polished Straight Bevel – 2” polished bevel edge around border of marker
- Lawn Mower Proof (LMP) – ¼” polished, rounded edge around border or flat marker
- Miscellaneous
- Rubbing - Method by which the lettering and carving on an existing stone are transferred to paper. Special rubbing transfer paper is available. Rubbings are used to duplicate all or part of an existing stone.
- Proof Drawing – scale drawing with name, dates, design, etc exactly as it will be seen on the memorial. This must be signed for approval
- Preliminary Presentation Drawing - Conceptual drawing that is a close approximation of the final memorial used to help secure an order. This does not require a signature.

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