



Irregular Flagstone:

Jim Larson & Mario Ortegon
Capital Stoneworks

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August 14, 2013
Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA)

1



Flagstone (flag) is a generic term for flat stone usually used for paving, slabs, walkways, and patios. It may be used for memorials, headstones, facades, and other constructions. The name derives from Middle English *flagge* meaning turf, perhaps from Old Norse *flaga* meaning *slab or chip*

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Flagstone is a sedimentary rock that is split into layers along bedding planes. The material that binds flagstone is usually composed of silica, calcite, or iron oxide. The rock color usually comes from these cementing materials. Typical flagstone colors are red, brown, blue, and buff, though exotic colors exist.

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Panoramic picture of the quarry layers



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Notice how the overburden is being removed to gain access to the top layers where most of the flagstone gets quarried.




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After the overburden has been removed, you can see the layers on the quarries vertical face.




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End loaders and bob cats will begin to separate the layers and remove large pieces of flagging or slabs.



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Large pieces will be hand split and dressed to insure that the surface and thicknesses stay consistent (pictured).



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Larger & heavier pieces will be cut by a big diamond blade saw (pictured).



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Next, pieces are assorted into irregular flagstone and dimensional flagstone (paving).



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Typically irregular flagstone can be vertically stacked 1 ½" to 2."



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Heavier irregular flagstone: 2" to 3"



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12

Fond du Lac gray irregular flagstone

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13

Buff Fond du Lac irregular flagstone

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14

Chilton irregular Flagstone






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Oakfield irregular flagstone






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Oakfield irregular flagstone

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Lannon Buff irregular flagstone

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Lannon Gray irregular flagstone




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Valders Buff irregular flagstone with a sandblast surface.




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20



Valder's Buff Sandblast Flagstone: 1 5/8" sawn thickness



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21



Mackinaw irregular flagstone




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Mackinaw irregular flagstone Chicago Botanic Garden

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Quartzite Sandstone: Chestnut/Sandy Creek Flagstone

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Fossil Creek Flagstone:

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Lilac irregular flagstone

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Tumbled Bluestone Flagstone:

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Large Tumbled Bluestone Flagstone:

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Tumbled Flagstone Pathway





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Full Color Bluestone: Mortar Set





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Blue irregular flagstone Tight joint, dry set installation

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Quartzite Sandstone at Chicago Botanic Garden with Radial bluestone insets

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Idaho Gold Quartzite Flagstone

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South Bay Quartzite

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South Bay Quartzite Flagstone at the Chicago Botanic Garden

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Patio in Moose Mountain Flagstone

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36