

FEBRUARY 2020

INDIA  
TODAY

# HOME

RNI No. DEL/NC/2006/20557, Not for sale. To be circulated free with India Today in Mumbai, Delhi & NCR, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata. \*Supplement to India Today issue dated March 2, 2020

## WHAT'S NEW

TOP  
DECOR  
LAUNCHES

## INSIDE

DESIGNER  
TARUN  
TAHILIANI'S  
BUNGALOW

## FLOORING SPECIAL

# PATTERNS ARE IN

FLOORS ARE NOW WORKS OF ART



# WALK ON THIS

Is marble flooring too old school for 2020 or does it have new takers? Our expert shares her insight about what's trending.

By **SONAL TAYAL**



*Sonal Tayal is the head of design and sales operations at design firm Livspace. [www.livspace.com](http://www.livspace.com)*



**A**s a sturdy material with an elegant and luxurious look, marble instantly uplifts the room. The good news is that it continues to be in vogue in 2020. Possibly introduced by the Rajputs, marble with inlay work is making a strong come back to give homes a luxe touch. It doesn't have to be only marble with marble inlay work, it can also include marble with metal inlay as well. This flooring option can instantly uplift the room. There is also a noticeable shift from darker floor colours to lighter hues. From off-white to beige and grey, minimalism is trending and white marble floors continue to be in. Honed marble finish, a porous marble finish is winning hearts and minds everywhere. It is created when the stone's surface has been chipped or ground by abrasives to provide a matte finish and helps give homes an old-world look, an alternative to the glossy marble flooring.

Marble also makes an excellent focal point in a room. To add to this trend, marble look-alike tiles are a rage amongst homeowners who are not



### MATERIAL WORLD

Examples of real homes with marble flooring by Livspace

keen on spending a huge amount of money. These tiles look exactly like natural marble and it is difficult to tell the difference. Available in a variety of colours and patterns, they can be installed anywhere at home.

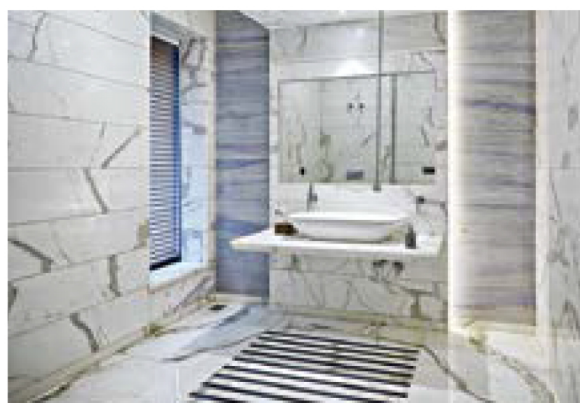
There are a few pointers that one must bear in mind while judging the quality of marble. One side of the slab should be polished and all four sides should be machine-cut. The slab used should be straight and uniform in thickness. The backside of a marble slab should not have a wire-mesh attached to it as this is usually added to fragile pieces. Examine the marble's surface under light at an angle of 45 degrees, if you find any dull surfaces and patches it indicates poor quality. Do a scratch test. If it resists scratches then it is probably artificial, since natural marble is not resistant to scratches. You can check the porosity of the marble by dropping a few droplets of lemon juice on the slab. If marble absorbs lemon juice quickly, it means marble has high porosity and hence it is not of good quality.

As for its maintenance. Firstly, seal marble slabs well. It protects the surface from staining agents to a great extent. Use a damp mop or cloth to remove dust and dirt from marble surfaces. Do not use acidic cleaners. Keep a marble polishing powder handy, for mild etching.

## BUYER'S GUIDE



Titled Michel Angelo, this highly durable flooring is part of the natural marble collection by Classic Marble Company. PRICE on request AT [www.classicmarble.com](http://www.classicmarble.com)



Statuario marble from A-Class Marble's Signature collection is ideal for indoor applications. PRICE ₹1,000 to ₹10,000 per sqft AT [www.aiclassmarble.co.in](http://www.aiclassmarble.co.in)



These NEOM Neo Modern Tiles by Hindware are designed to look like marble flooring. PRICE ₹1,778 per sqm (planks) AT [www.hindwarehomes.com](http://www.hindwarehomes.com)

