

Solutions Rock Solid

Fall 2007 Edition



A Luxury Beer Garden with a View from Kansas City's
Boulevard Brewing Company. See Inside Story!
Featuring Flamed Bluestone & Sonoran Gold Flagstone



STURGIS
ROCK SOLID SOLUTIONS



Get the most out of fall... Expand it!

It's the perfect time to build your outdoor living room. Imagine gathering with family or friends on a crisp, fall evening to roast marshmallows. Maybe you just want to sit fireside with a glass of wine and reflect on the day. You deserve to enjoy the fresh fall air with the sound, warmth and ambiance that a fire brings. Fireplace kits and natural stone veneer are in-stock at Sturgis so there's no waiting on your project. We'll help get you started so that your project is perfect.

Warm Ideas: *Fire pits are simple to build and make a great gathering place.*



(Above) Fire Pit with Indiana Limestone cap, Colonial Gray building stone and Antique Gray flagstone stepping stones.



(Above) Fire Pit shown here using Bluestone Flagstone. Photo/Stonework by Landscape Renderings, (913)709-6775.



Making Cents Out of Stone Common Sense Solutions by Marc Lonesk

Create Next Year's Patio Before This Year's Freeze!

It's not too late to create an outdoor living space. Just like planting a tree, you can install your new natural stone patio clear up until the first hard freeze. Think about the advantages. First, the installation can happen now instead of in the exhausting mid-summer heat. Next, if you install a fire pit or outdoor fireplace to match, you can extend your outdoor living season by several months. And finally, you can get the most out of next spring by jumping on the project now.

The first step is picking the right material. Ed Walsh and I research quarries all around the country to find unique and beautiful stone. That's the easy part. Finding a stone that can and will withstand Kansas City's "Freeze-Thaw" extremes is the bigger challenge. All rock and flagstone in our Landscape Rock Gallery was particularly chosen for this reason. Our materials will far outlast others because of their hardness.

Stone Thickness is key: Consider that your patio project is going to go much faster and will be more stable if all of your stone has the same thickness. This will save you hours of leveling and digging. Sturgis pallets are some of the most consistent you will find and that's no coincidence.

We use many measuring tools, including uniform thickness, when choosing which quarries to do business with. We have the end user (you) in mind!

According to Mike Pflaum at Ash Grove Packaging, when laying a natural stone patio in the cooler season (below 40° at night), you will want to use a Non-Chloride Accelerator with your mortar mix. It's important to always check with your manufacturer to see what their specific recommendations are. This will save you much agony from watching your project crumble before your eyes.

Do you need a permit? In most cases you should pull a permit to have the city sign off on your project. One reason is that proper water drainage design is so important. Most do not think about where the water is going to go after a major downpour. Of course you must detour water away from the foundation. In addition, you must make sure it does not sit on top of the stone or mortar. And the worst scenario is when it flows into the neighbors' property causing their yard or foundation to flood. Now you have problems, and it's best to have pulled a permit in order to prevent liability issues. For these reasons we recommend hiring a Landscape Architect to help protect you from costly mistakes. (We would be happy to refer you to a qualified professional)



(Above) Misty Blue flagstone and Classic Gray veneer stone with Indiana Limestone cap. Photo/Stonework by Landscape, (816)985-2233



(Above) A stone patio displays Sonoran Gold Flagstone. Photo/Stonework by Landscape Renderings, (913)709-6775.

Come on in and we will help you pick the stone that makes the most sense for your application, and give you tips that will make your project go smoother. Natural stone will always make sense due to its timeless and unsurpassed beauty. It's second to none for patios, retaining walls, building material, pathways/stepping stones, and more!

For more tips, come in and talk to any of our Stone Consultants about your project.

Our Fall Feature:



The Muehlebach Beer Garden Patio was designed by Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company, Kansas City, Missouri, 816.842.8999. Fire pit and stonework by "Green Expectations Landscaping Co." of Kansas City, Kansas, (913)897-8076. Smokestack/seating, carpentry by Jamie Jefferies and crew.

Going Green

On The Boulevard

Natural stone patios provide beauty and low-maintenance.

Atop a new three-story German brew house located off Southwest Boulevard in Kansas City, you'll find a leader in the craft beer industry that displays a different kind of taste!

The famous Boulevard Brewing Company has been a success story since its inauguration in 1989. The company's recent growth required a 70,000 square foot expansion of the brewing facility and business offices, and now offers a unique hospitality area which is the focus of our story.

The Muehlebach Suite (named after the former local brewery) is a premier rental facility with a full commercial kitchen, in-house audio/visual equipment, and a spectacular view of the city. The suite invites you outdoors onto a 3,000 square foot beer garden patio that offers an incredible panoramic view of the downtown skyline.

The plants, materials and design chosen for the project were the creative work of the Boulevard Brewing Company and the Landscape Architects at Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company. (www.jlbruce.com)

The Natural Materials: You know that we couldn't tell a story without making the natural stone the hero. An eye-pleasing combination of one-inch Flamed Bluestone and Sonoran Gold Flagstone were chosen for the floor. The Bluestone coloring helps to bring in the grayish tones of the surrounding buildings and concrete. What makes the entire collage work is the use of the natural earth-tone reds that transition the brick construction and the cedar decking in with the total environment. The blended palette is both luxurious and functional.

Both stones are low maintenance and require little attention, especially Bluestone. Masons call it the self-cleaning stone. Some claim that it is the earth's most perfect stone for this reason. The Sonoran Gold Flagstone has a natural texture that makes it easy for your feet to grip on to. However, the bluestone does not have the same texture, so it tends to be slick when rain-covered. The key to using bluestone in a high traffic area is to "Flame it", where the top of the stone is exposed to a torch. The heat roughens the stone, making the outer layer pop, and creating texture in the finished product. This method was used for the Boulevard's patio area to prevent a slick surface and accidents. (more on Bluestone in the "Cut Stone" article below)

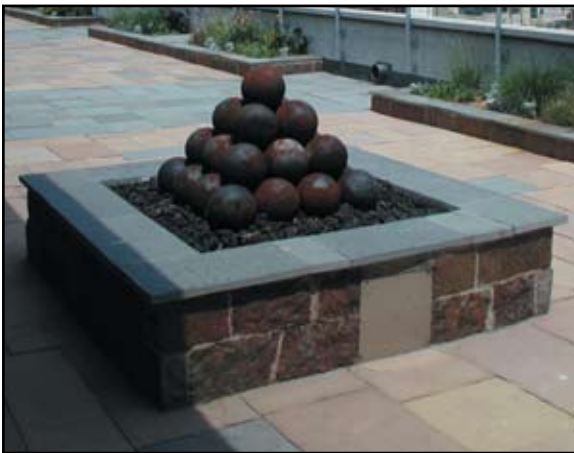


More great photos of flagstone patios and outdoor living ideas at www.sturgismaterials.com.

The Plants: Once again, low-maintenance is the name of this design. All the plants chosen were native, heat-tolerant and good for the environment. Plants help cool down any outdoor space. With the downtown temperature always being the hottest in the metro due to concrete absorbing heat, many plants can't take the intense sun. But this variety of plants used help add to the decor with a saturation of green, yellow and purples which thrive with little care.

Plants used: Dwarf Fountain Grass, Stella-Dora Daylillies, Rudbeckia Marmalade, Dusty Miller, and Purple Cone Flowers (echinacea).

The "Cannon Ball" Fire Pit: The ambiance is complete with this remote control fire pit which can be seen inside and out. The controlled flame allows guests to sit on the edge of the fire pit in safety and enjoy the beauty as the fire's light flickers and dances off the side of the building and stone flooring. The fire pit structure (sold in a kit), as well as the natural stone veneer on the walls and bluestone edge (cap), can be found in-stock at Sturgis.



How do you lower utility costs, make your roof last longer, reduce global warming, and enhance the environment with one project? You build a "Green Roof" (or Living Roof) on top of your facility! (right photo)

The garden on top of Boulevard Brewing was recently planted with two varieties of Sedum, which will eventually grow to cover the entire roof. This idea is catching on in Kansas City for many reasons.

By having a green roof versus an asphalt roof or other traditional material, your building does not absorb the heat of summer, which makes it easier to keep your building cool



Our tour host, Rebecca Alexander (Sales & Marketing Coordinator, Boulevard Brewing Company) shows off the downtown view from the newly constructed Muehlebach Beer Garden.

for employees. The result is a lower utility bill and less usage of the earth's natural resources.

A green roof actually will increase the life and decrease the maintenance of your roof. The plants, and not your roofing materials, will be exposed to the weather. Like natural stone, plants are designed for exposure to weather, plus, the plants absorb rain water, so you have fewer water problems to contend with.

One final design feature is the huge skylight which lights the center of the first floor warehouse during the day, lowering utility costs.

This entire concept is another example of the influence of the "Green Movement" which is taking hold here in Kansas City. This movement is not just about living organisms, but includes natural materials such as stone, versus pre-fabricated materials.

We at Sturgis toast the ideas, design and vision of the Boulevard Brewing Company and Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company.

For information and reservations at the Boulevard Brewing Company's facility, call (816)474-7095 or visit www.blvdbeer.com/tastingroom.htm





Q&A

Straight Answers by Chris Straight

Can I install Natural Thin Veneer (NTV) directly over my ugly or outdated brick fireplace?

This is a question I often get here at Sturgis, and the answer is YES. NTV will adhere directly to any clean, untreated masonry surface. If you have brick that has been painted or sealed, there are two options:

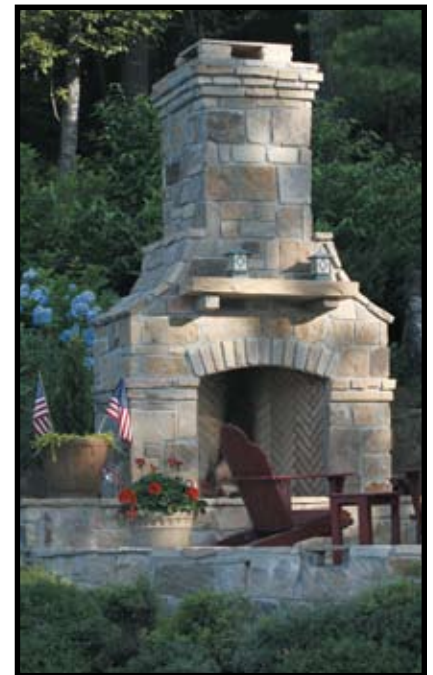
1. Sandblast the original surface, then remove the dust before installing NTV; or
2. Securely attach galvanized wire lath with concrete nails. Apply scratch coat or mortar to the lath, let dry, then apply NTV to finished scratch coat.



Which is a more costly material for patios & walkways: Natural Stone or brick?

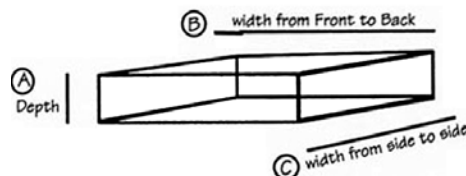
Unfortunately, there is no easy answer to this question because there are so many different options in both types of paving materials. Brick pavers can be concrete or brick, many different shapes, styles and colors, and can range in material price of \$3.50-\$7.50 per sq ft. Natural stone also is available in a wide array of looks, colors and textures. Sturgis offers Irregular Natural Flagstone ranging from \$400 per ton to \$850 per ton. (approx \$3.50-\$8.50 per sq ft) Square footage yield is specific to the exact type of stone and

the average thickness. Flagstone that is sawn or squared ranges in prices from \$7.50 - \$12.50 per sq ft. Although many people assume that natural stone is more expensive, there are a number of different types of brick paving that can cost more than many different types of stone that are available. Our knowledgeable sales staff will be happy to assist you in pricing any project you have in mind.



What type of foundation do I need to install for an Outdoor Fireplace Kit?

Depending on the size, and exactly how you plan to finish the exterior of your Fireplace Kit, the manufacturer recommends the following guide be used.



Minimum Requirement for Foundation		24"	36"	48"
Fabricated Stone Stucco, Stain, or Tile	A	4" - 6"	6" - 8"	8" - 10"
	B	48"	48"	48"
	C	40"	52"	64"
Natural Stone or Brick	A	8" - 12"	12" - 18"	18" - 24"
	B	54"	54"	54"
	C	46"	58"	70"

Ask the Expert: e-mail chris@sturgismaterials.com or or call (913) 371-7757



Bluestone is Timeless

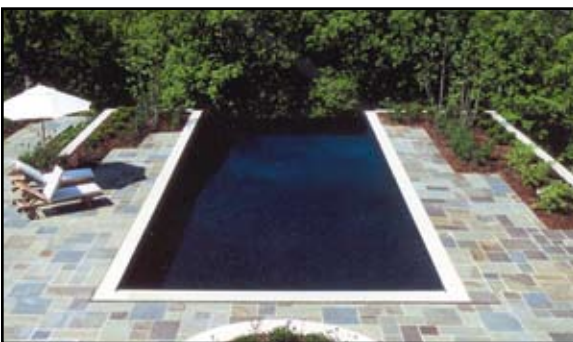
by Ed Walsh

Fact: the famous rocks of Stonehenge are bluestone. According to historians, the stones were placed there during the third phase of construction at Stonehenge around 2,600 B.C. Just think, if these stones are still in tact, how long will your Bluestone projects last?

Recently we've seen a resurgence in the popularity of this versatile stone, so I would like to re-introduce you to this beautiful option for exterior or interior projects.

What is Bluestone? It is a variety of sandstone - a beautiful and versatile building material, so-named because the stone appears blue when wet or freshly broken. The name is a misnomer, however, because the stone is found in a wide range of colors. Bluestone is highly resistant to salt or muriatic acid, but be careful because the mortar is not. Bluestone has always been prized as a building material because it can be easily separated into slabs of nearly any size.

The Versatile Stone. Bluestone is ideal for any application. It can be used as paving, pool coping, wall veneer, countertops, patios, architectural facings, fireplaces, sills, and as a basic building material for churches, institutions, homes and businesses.



Bluestone is available in many formats and sizes including irregular slabs, tumbled pavers, wall rock and tumbled gravel. Further, the versatile stone offers nearly endless possibilities when it



comes to finishes, whether you desire natural cleft (for interior surfaces), flamed (for a more textured, safer walking surface) or tumbled finish (to eliminate sharp edges for stairs and caps). Bluestone also can be treated thermally, sanded, and rubbed, or honed; honed bluestone is a superb material for countertops. Basically, for whatever application you can imagine, it can be carved or cut from bluestone. Consider Bluestone for your next project...come in to Sturgis for samples!

Natural Cleft

Flamed

Tumbled



Sturgis has all your Bluestone solutions. We carry Bluestone in stock and can offer any size, shape or texture for your projects.

Call (913) 371-2930