HANDLING & STORAGE

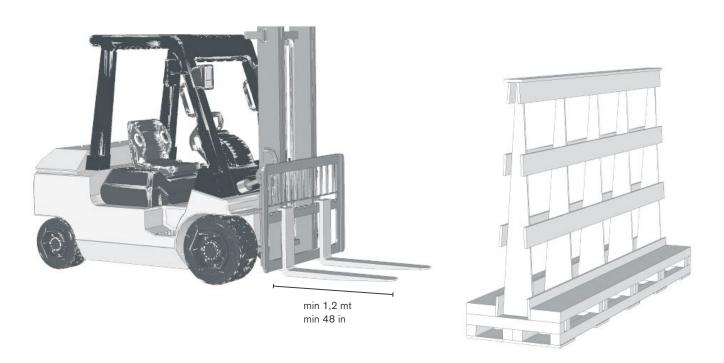


Handling a-frame

A fork lift truck with adequate loading capacity (approximately 5000kg) is essential for handling A-frames. It should be equipped with forks not less than 1.20m (48 in) / 1.40m (56 in) in length for handling on the long side.

Handling rack - a-frame on the long side

We recommend inserting the forks into the rack in the holes provided for this, using a fork lift truck of adequate load capacity equipped with forks at least 1.20m (48 in) in lenght, at the maximum obtainable width position. Before lifting, insert the forks all the way under the load.



Warning tipping hazard:

For the safety of workers, to avoid injury to people and irreparable damage to the large porcelain panels, DO NOT handle the A-frames with forklifts after removing the plastic guards, strapping, and other antitip locking systems.

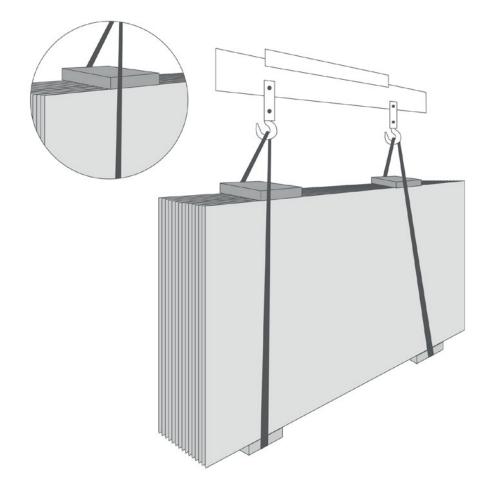
If even one of the anti-tip systems is removed, be sure to secure the load with appropriate systems, such as strapping or clamps, to prevent the large porcelain panels from tipping over.

GranitiFiandre S.p.A. disclaims all responsibility for injury or damage to persons, property or to the large porcelain panels due to handling of A-frames without adequate safety guards in place.

GranitiFiandre S.p.A. recommends that, at all times, at least two, trained, workers handle any movement of the large porcelain panels.

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Handling large format ceramics handling single large format ceramics

During unloading, it is essential to remove large format ceramics one by one from alternate sides of the A-frame in order to ensure the load is stable, balanced and can be handled safely. Suction cup lifters, canvas or rubber belts, or clamps may be used to handle single large format ceramics.

Handling multiple large format ceramics

Use specific equipment with adequate load capacity. For example forklift with extending arms and sling straps, or overhead crane with jib and suitable straps. Steel cables, chains or anything that could damage the large format ceramics in any way should not be used. We recommend protecting edges when lifting or moving large format ceramics. Always check the maximum lifting capacity of the equipment is suitable for the weight of the load to be lifted.

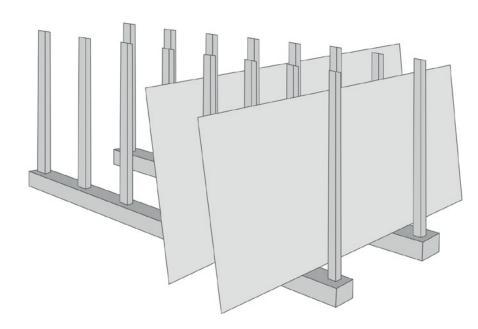
Instruments required

The instruments for lifting and handling the slabs can be chosen according to the size of the slab and the activities to be performed on the site, in particular:

- Fork lift truck with forks 1.6 M long;
- Frame with suction cups for handling large format slabs;

Processing stages

- 1. Remove the cover from the cage/rack;
- 2. Position the frame with suction cups on the slab and make sure that the cups adhere to it perfectly;
- 3. For horizontal handling (on the surface), put the slab into a vertical position and use the wheels applied to the handling frame.



Storing large format ceramics

Large format ceramics may be stored on trestles or in the shipping crates used to deliver products.

If storing on trestles, always ensure large format ceramics are removed from alternate sides in order to balance the load, prevent damage and eliminate risk to personnel.

Warning: After picking up large format ceramic(s) always ensure they are secured with straps or clamps, to prevent them possibly toppling over.

Alternatively, large format ceramics can be stored upright on suitable metal racks that must be covered with rubber, Teflon or wood on any parts in direct contact with large format ceramics.

Bear in mind that, when stored upright on racks, the large format ceramics may flex slightly.

This does not affect installation since when laid on a flat surface any flexing should disappear and the large format ceramics will revert to being perfectly straight.

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