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BUYER'S CHECKLIST

Before you buy bluestone: eight questions worth asking

- [ ] **Is this genuine basalt, or is it a limestone sold under the bluestone label?**
Basalt and limestone perform very differently outdoors. Many products sold as "bluestone" are limestone-based, affecting porosity, acid sensitivity, and long-term durability.

- [ ] **Can you identify the quarry and country of origin?**
Origin doesn't determine quality on its own, but a supplier who knows where their stone comes from and how it was processed has genuine product knowledge.

- [ ] **Is the stone calibrated, and what is the thickness tolerance across the batch?**
Poor calibration is a common cause of labour cost blowouts. Excessive variation means the installer must compensate for every piece.

- [ ] **Is replacement stock available from the same batch?**
Natural stone varies between production runs. Mid-project, mismatched replacement stock is a common and costly outcome.

- [ ] **Is there current slip resistance testing available for this product?**
Under AS 4586, paving in wet areas and pool surrounds must meet minimum P-ratings. Ask for the test report specific to this stone and finish.

- [ ] **What is the water absorption rate?**
Absorption rate determines how the stone responds to moisture, chemicals, and staining and drives the frequency of sealing. Under 1% is preferable for outdoor and wet applications.

- [ ] **Has this product been used successfully in pool environments?**
Pool surrounds require wet-barefoot slip ratings, chemical resistance, and tolerance for constant wet-dry cycling. Ask for documented examples.

- [ ] **Who is responsible for the product if something goes wrong after installation?**
Under Australian Consumer Law, the fit-for-purpose guarantee sits with the supplier. If you supply the stone yourself, that warranty relationship changes. Know it before you buy.

A supplier who knows their stone will answer these questions directly. One who doesn't may redirect you toward the price.