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Natural radioactivity in Spanish granites: observations on different slab finishes.

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Proper characterization of natural stones should include data on natural radioactivity and Rn exhalation. It has been determined that depending on the natural stone finishes, the exhalation value can vary considerably. This observation is extremely important in terms of commercializing (import and export) the stones, as some countries have heavy restrictions on this. Depending on the radioactivity values, a stone should be advised for interior used and/or exterior use. We have studied some granite samples from Extremadura, a Spanish region where stone industrial sector is an important part for the economy. These samples were tested for different finishes (e.g. polished, bush-hammered, flamed), and from the obtained results we can advise on the proper use for the slabs.

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