

There are many techniques for carving stone or etching images into a stone surface. Here are four of the most popular processes, although we do not currently offer bas relief or shape carving.



**Bas Relief** - The entire surface of the monument is cut away, leaving the flowers in bas relief on top of the other surface.



**Etching** - Typically used on black granite, this technique cracks the surface of the granite using a diamond-tipped tool or a laser. When the granite's polished surface is etched it creates a high contrast image on the stone. This is popular for photos and portraits.



**Flat Carving or Line Carving** - This process involves sandblasting an image (of a flower, for example) on the stone. There is no dimensioning or relief given to the carving.



**Shaped Carving** - This is a time-consuming technique that requires years of training with sandblast tools. This process involves shaping the petals and leaves of flowers with a special sandblast nozzle. Shaped carving gives depth and a sense of reality to the carvings on a monument.