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## **Italstone Custom stone fabricator expanding to Yakima**

***Hood River, Ore.-based Italstone to open production, retail facility***

YAKIMA, Wash. – Italstone an importer and precision fabricator of custom stone finish materials plans to open a production, service and sales facility in Yakima, New Vision announced today.

Italstone-U.S. identified Yakima for its second production facility because of the city's central location to customers and shipping routes, according to the company's president and founder, Gjino Ilias. Italstone plans to build an 8,000-square-foot state of the art facility that will include production space customized for precise fabrication of stone used in finish construction.

"Yakima offers a supportive business environment that entrepreneurs appreciate and the critical resources their companies need to succeed," said Dave McFadden, New Vision president. "Italstone has found working with the city of Yakima to be a very positive experience."

Italstone employs approximately 25 people at its Hood River, Ore. headquarters. The company anticipates it will hire at least that many full-time employees for its Yakima



facility. The company will offer apprenticeships, competitive wages and benefits for employees, Gjino said.

“We are looking for employees who want a career, not just a job,” Gjino said. “We will train and invest in people who really want to learn and become a true craftsman.”

Yakima’s proximity to deep sea ports in Seattle and Tacoma and its quick rail access to those shipping hubs made the city particularly attractive to Italstone. The company imports raw slabs of granite, marble, travertine, limestone, and other stone from quarries around the world in 25-ton cargo containers. It has an online showroom viewable at [www.italstone-us.com](http://www.italstone-us.com).

Italstone purchased land on Ahtanum Road and plans to break ground on the new facility in March. Construction is expected to be complete in late summer.

Italstone is the only Northwest Company to import, fabricate, and install stone materials, Gjino said. The company has an established base of central Washington contractors and homeowners it has done marble and granite countertops for over the past several years.

Italstone is a member of the Central Washington Homebuilders Association. Its work has been featured in previous Parade of Home houses, HGTV and numerous magazines throughout the Northwest.

“The community has been encouraging us to open a facility for some time,” Gjino said. “They have really given Italstone a warm welcome.”