The background surface of the plaque is important because it sets off the inscription, border, motifs and other design features. The design features which are raised above the background surface are linished or polished and appear as metallic bronze. The background surface is painted or patinated and the texture of this surface affects the overall appearance of the plaque.

Two surface texture options are available:

- **Stipple**
  The purpose of the stipple is to provide a non-reflective background and enhance the contrast between the letter face and background for maximum legibility. Stipple is not available on plaques with either dimension greater than 600mm.

- **Flat No Stipple**
  An "as cast" surface from the sand mould